

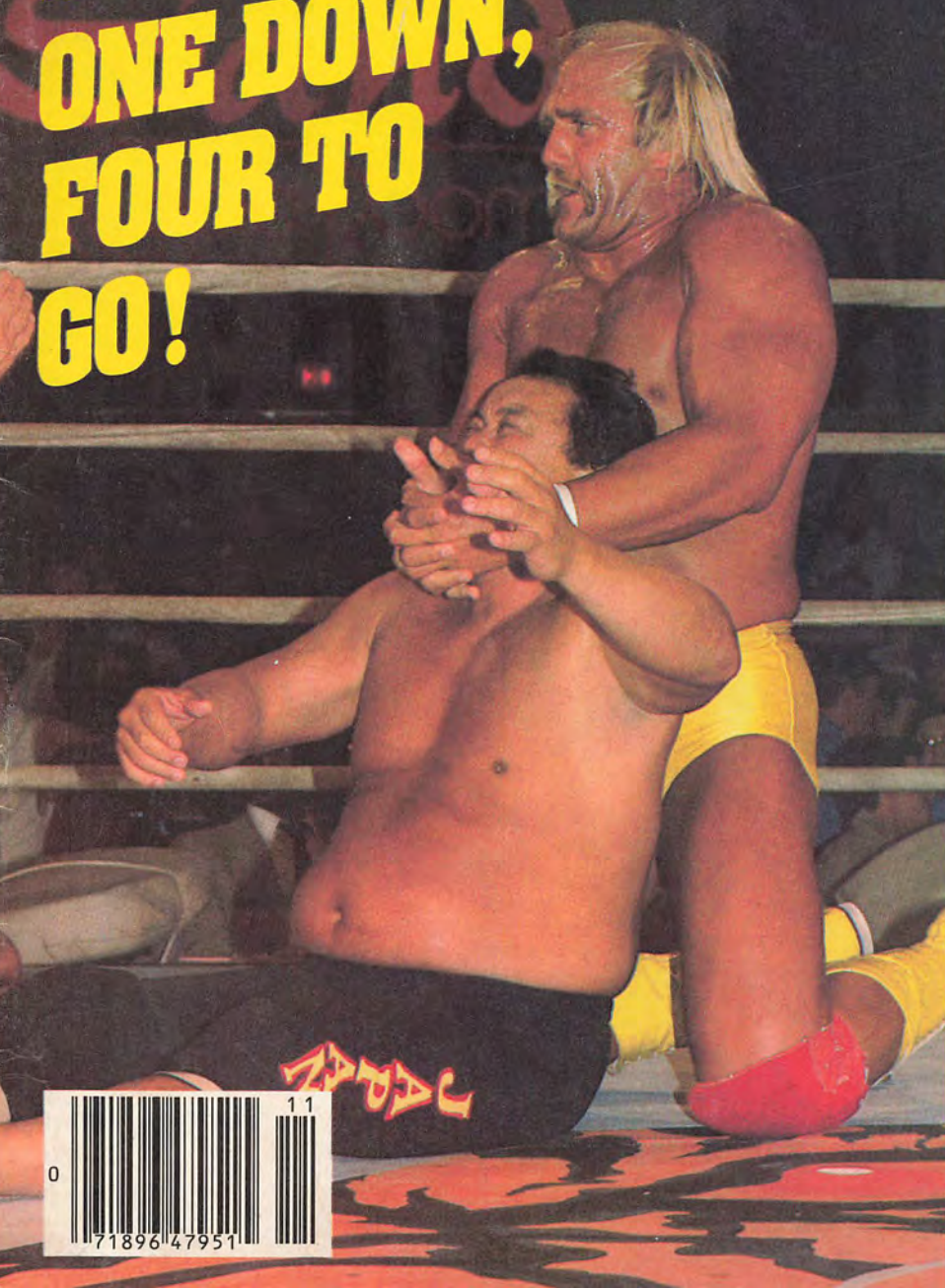


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47951  November 1985

THE Wrestler

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FOUR TO
GO!**



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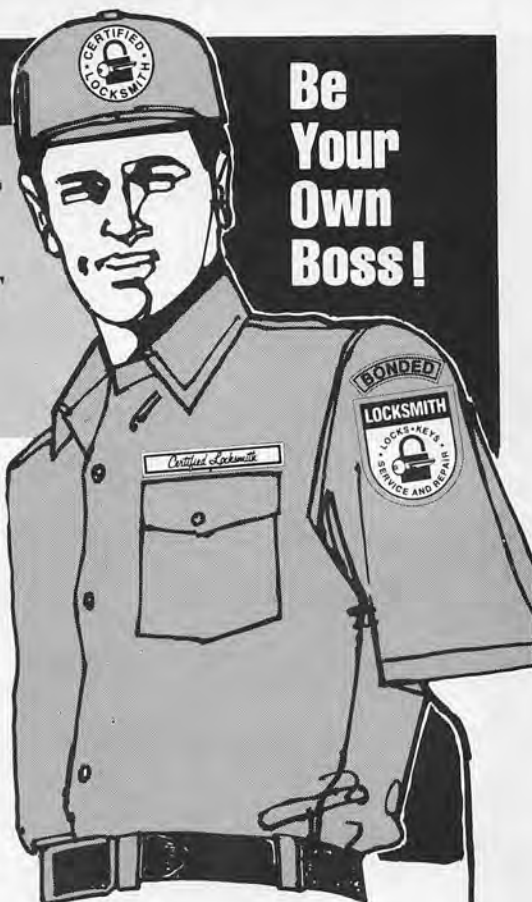
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If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

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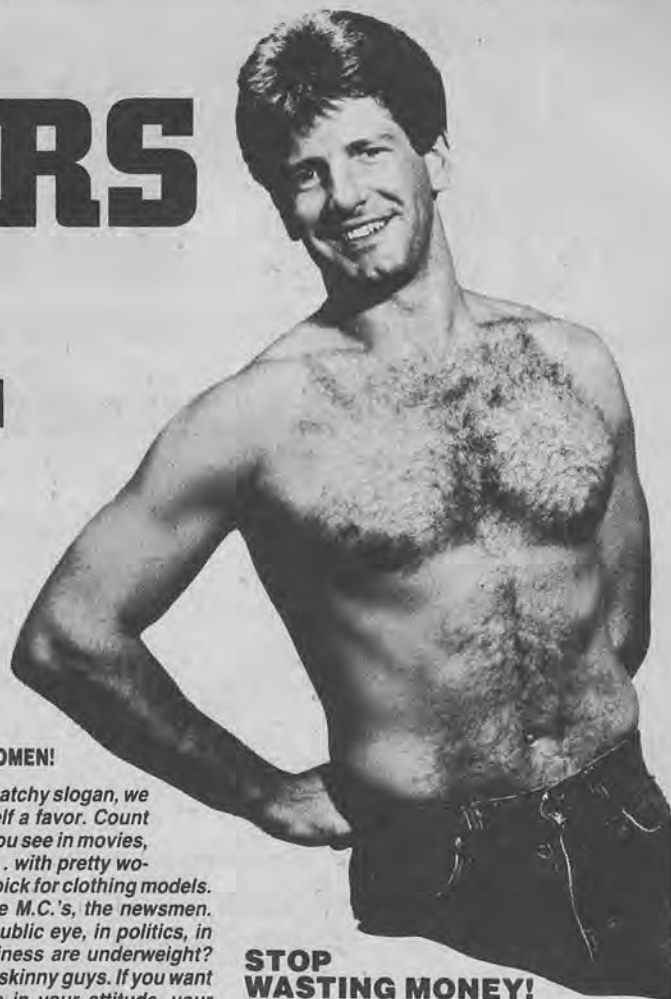
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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THE Wrestler

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- Junkyard Dog vs. The Missing Link

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- Ric Flair vs. Harley Race—*cage match—Flair regains NWA World title*
- Abdullah the Butcher vs. Carlos Colon

FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD

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- The Fabulous Ones vs. The Moondogs
- Dusty Rhodes vs. Tully Blanchard
- Jerry Lawler vs. Bill Dundee
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ADAMS IS AN INGRATE

An open letter to Angela Choyce and fans in Menhall, Mississippi:

In the petition that you sent to *The Wrestler* (printed in the August 1985 issue) you said that the Von Erichs turned their backs on Chris Adams.

You must be stupid, crazy, or both to say that.

It was Adams who left Kevin to be double-teamed by Gino Hernandez and Jake Roberts after a tag team match, and it was Adams who literally drew first blood when he hit Kevin

over the head with a wooden chair and put him in the hospital. He showed what a low person he really is when he and Gino smashed the Lincoln Continental that Kevin won in the 12-man match at Texas Stadium.

Adams owes his career to the Von Erichs, because they helped him get started and they made him the great wrestler he was before he joined up with Gary Hart. I thought that after he fired Hart he would straighten up, but it looks like I was wrong.

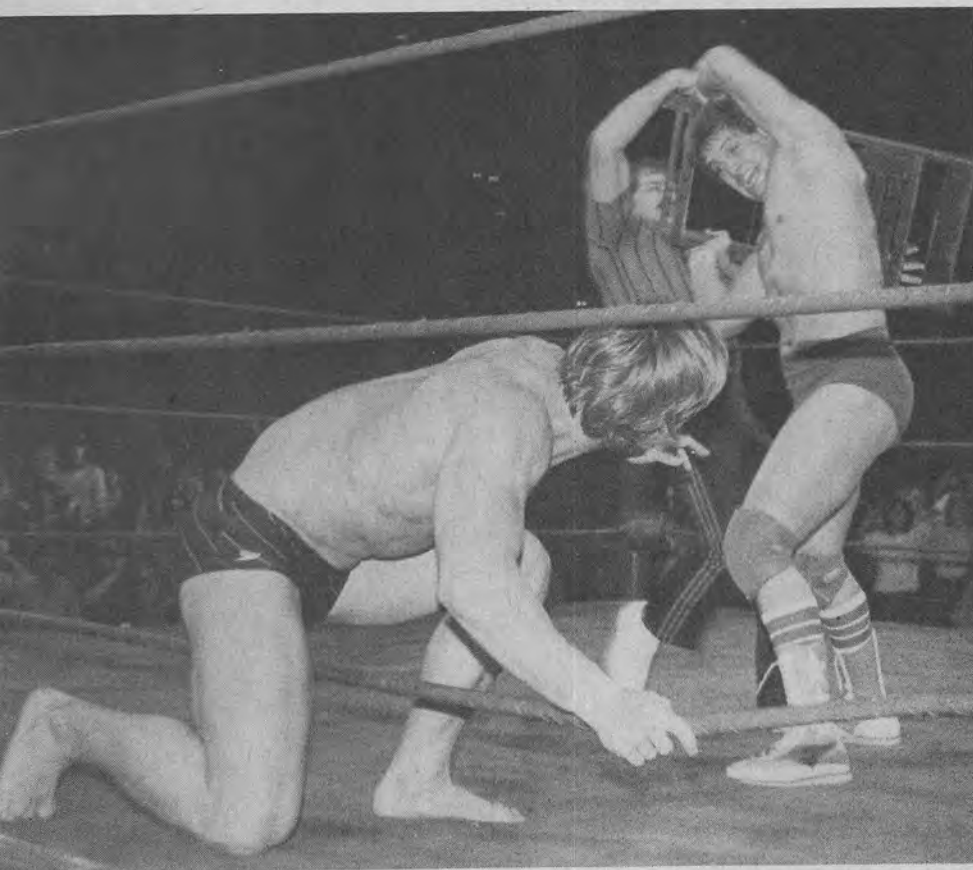
MARVIN HAYES
Houston

BABY DOLL IS NO DOLL

I'm writing this letter because I dislike Baby Doll very much. When I watch wrestling, and I see Baby Doll, it makes me sick to my stomach because I keep thinking about what that cheap and dirty Baby Doll did to Dusty Rhodes. Dusty hasn't done anything to this prissy Baby Doll. I think she should keep her big mouth out the feud going on between Dusty and Tully Blanchard. I don't understand why people would support Blanchard and Baby Doll, because all they really are are dirty fighters. Dusty Rhodes forever!

TRACY DARRELL
Clayton, DE

(Continued on page 47)



Referee David Manning prevents Chris Adams from slamming a chair against the head of a defenseless Kevin Von Erich. Reader Marvin Hayes is puzzled as to why fans would still back Adams after he turned on the Von Erichs.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

THIS PAST MONTH has not been a good one for **Magnum T.A.** Repeated title shots with NWA World champion **Ric Flair** ended up in repeated failures. And on July 21, T.A. became a former U.S. heavyweight champion when **Tully Blanchard** defeated him in Charlotte, North Carolina, with a little help from **Baby Doll**,



Disguised as a security guard, Baby Doll slipped Tully Blanchard the roll of coins he used to take Magnum T.A.'s U.S. title.

who, disguised as a security guard, slipped a roll of coins to Blanchard from ringside. T.A.'s woes continued when he found himself the victim of a brutal attack at the hands of **Ole** and **Arn Anderson** when the National tag team

champions broke into his dressing room as he was being interviewed on SuperStation WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling*.

"Yeah, I guess you could say I got up on the wrong side of the bed in July!" Magnum joked, though the disappointment and frustration of recent weeks was painfully evident. "It's kind of overwhelming. So much has happened in the last couple of weeks; so much that's been bad. I blow off a lot of steam at the moment, but when I get home and think about what's been going on in my career—man, it just gets me down! I'm gonna have to dig down and find some inspiration somewhere to get a second wind."

That inspiration may come from "The American Dream" **Dusty Rhodes**. It appears as if Magnum and Dusty will be forming a tag team to avenge the Andersons' attack on Magnum. The combination has already earned the name "America's Team," and observers of the NWA wrestling scene agree that the combination of Dusty and Magnum is potentially one of the greatest teams in NWA history.

A lot of upheaval has taken place in Florida since our last is-

sue, most of it centering around the Southern and Florida championships.

Shortly after the October issue of *The Wrestler* went to press, **Hercules Hernandez** captured both the Southern and Florida titles. But Hernandez's monopoly on Florida singles belts wouldn't last long: Shortly after winning the titles,



Rick Rude won the Southern title in a tournament set up to fill one of the vacancies left by Hercules Hernandez's departure.

Hernandez vacated both championships and left the Sunshine State.

"What do you expect the man to do?" asked **Billy Jack Haynes**. "He signed to face me in a series of \$5,000 benchpress challenges.

(Continued on page 54)

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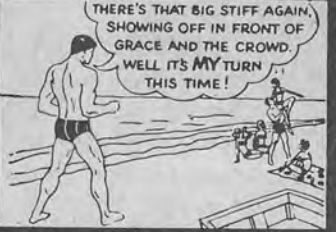
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CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

Memphis, TN (Correspondent—Chuck Morris): The Fabulous Ones, Stan Lane and Steve Keirn, put their Mid-Southern tag team title on the line against the Kiwi Shepherders, the notorious New Zealand team consisting of Rip Morgan and Jonathan Boyd.

Keirn gave his team the early advantage when he tackled Boyd to the canvas with a spectacular flying legscissors. Keirn tagged quickly off to Lane, who maintained the advantage, working on Boyd's arm with a combination of hammerlocks, armbars, and

forearms.

Finally, Boyd managed to crawl to his corner and tag off to his partner, Morgan, who was able to turn the tide of the match. Morgan threw Keirn from the ring and Boyd hurried over and jabbed him twice with the New Zealand flag. Keirn, now bleeding freely from several cuts on his face and forehead, fought gamely. He sent Morgan reeling with a powerful bolo punch, but, from behind, Boyd slammed Keirn over the head with a blackjack. Morgan fell on the fallen Fabulous One and the Kiwi Shepherders became the new Mid-Southern tag team champs.

In other bouts: Jay Youngblood and Jerry Oske drew with Phil Hickerson and The Mid-Southern Spoiler . . . Jerry Jarrett and Tojo Yamamoto conquered Terry Adonis and Bill Smithson by disqualification . . . Billy Travis and Ron Sexton defeated Les Freeman and Gino Dela Serra . . . Norvell Austin and Koko Ware subdued Johnny Rich and Dennis Upton.



Rip Morgan holds back Steve Keirn's arms as Jonathan Boyd runs into the ring and attacks the helpless wrestler with a chain. The Shepherders would go on to capture The Fabulous Ones' Mid-Southern tag team titles.

Fitchburg, MA (Correspondent—Steve Kerelein): Tito Santana and Tony Atlas met Johnny Valiant and Brutus Beefcake in what turned out to be a picnic for the fan favorites.

Santana set the pace of the match with a shattering over-the-head bodyslam of Valiant, which

(Continued on page 56)

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A PILL OR WAIT ONE MINUTE!**

Talk about good looks! Nothing makes you look better, healthier, more energetic than a rich, golden tan. We all know what some people will go through to achieve it... hours of sitting in the broiling sun or basking on a rooftop or sweltering under an expensive sun lamp... and now... some have even been induced to take pills... that promise to tan you from the *inside*. But how would you like to be able to put on a rich, *satiny-finish* golden tan as easily as putting on your clothes? And a more beautiful tan than you can get from the sun or a lamp or any pill! Marvelous INSTANTAN is here now and creating a whole new happy following of boosters.

Lasts as long as a sun tan!
Won't come off till you want it to!

INSTANTAN is not just another cover-up. It's an entirely new KIND of a product... that slips on as smooth as cream... sinks into the skin like a real suntan, without streaks or give-away signs of any kind and leaves you with a tan that's better, safer and more flattering than any sunbather or sunlamp sitter or pill-taker. Swim with it. Shower with it. But show it off as much as possible and watch them all envy that golden satiny, healthy-looking gloss.

Great tan for your entire body!

We want to emphasize... INSTANTAN is GOOD for your skin. Its dermatologically formulated with a collection of your skin's best helpers... plus an ingredient that adds a pigment developed with the aid of men's fashion consultants to achieve the color and glow most flattering to macho men. It contains elements that no other product of its kind has ever been able to boast before. It is indeed science's answer to a long-standing demand for a skin-tanning process that takes no time at all and does away with tedious methods now practiced.

Costs less in time and money!

Sun bathing takes lots of time and costs money in travel, lotions, and hours of basking in strong sunlight. INSTANTAN costs only pennies per application; takes only minutes and actually improves your skin better than lotions and balms and ointments costing up to ten times as much. And here's one MORE but very important PLUS... INSTANTAN is **guaranteed**... and we mean UNCONDITIONALLY... to be all we say... and to do all we promise... as fast as we say it will. All we want you to do is **try it**. Spread a little on

your skin. See how great it FEELS. Notice how great it looks! *That satiny golden sheen.* That healthy beachcomber look. That jet-setter vacation affluence you emanate. You'll have the look you've been envying on others. The glow of success. The appearance of well-being. And underneath your tan, your skin will take on a fine, smooth tone that only a well-cared-for complexion has.

High quality skin-care product.
Guaranteed to improve your skin.

Men of fair skin whom nature cheated out of the joy of a rich, healthy tan by making them turn beet-red and suffer pain, stop hiding from threatening ultra-violet rays! Your time has come! Spread on INSTANTAN and look marvelous! Stop worrying about the vulnerability to skin disease. INSTANTAN is good for fair skin especially! See how smooth, flexible and youthful your skin will become. Say goodbye to the lobster look and say hello to that rich, golden, satin-gloss look you've always wished for. Fair skin or olive skin... INSTANTAN is for you. Wait till you see for yourself!

Not just a skin cover but a deep-down penetrating treatment.

We want you to give INSTANTAN the quick-spread test. Just rub it on any part of your body. See how it sinks INTO your skin. How smoothly it spreads. How good it feels. And how its satiny finish looks like the perfect suntan in rich glow, color and texture. How natural! Your friends will compliment you... and envy you.

INSTANTAN is the triumphant result of persistent, patient, extensive scientific research!

Dermatologists, bio-chemists, pharmacists and researchers pooled their collective knowledge to bring forth a product that works like magic. Soothes, smooths, colors, nourishes, protects, improves and stays on. Then off it comes, completely and easily WHEN YOU WANT IT TO. If that isn't something to shout about, we don't know our miracles... and we've brought forth a few. Try it yourself without risk.

A personal note from us to you...

Before INSTANTAN is offered through national retail channels, we have induced the laboratories not only to permit us to bring this wonder product to you by mail order, but to let us set the price as low as possible for a predetermined time. The great success we have had with over a dozen new products in the very recent past has given us special prestige with research laboratories, not to mention an enviable position among consumers. Our guarantee on all our products means a lot.



No more hours of broiling! No more waiting! Tan right away! GLOWING NATURAL BRONZE!

Ever on the alert to bring our many friends new and wonderful products at prices they can well afford, we are justifiably proud to bring you INSTANTAN because we know of nothing else like it. So confident are we that you will not only delight in it but tell your closest friends and family about it that we have specially lowered the offering price in anticipation of extraordinarily large volume through recommendation. Only by trying it can you even begin to appreciate it. Therefore, we urge you to order now and get our quick delivery.

If you're not absolutely thrilled with what INSTANTAN does for you return it for full refund!

What else can we do but impress upon you the fact that we take all the risk? How else can we convince you that we are 100% sincere when we make claims that are so sensational they are hard to believe? But if you try this product and for any reason feel even the slightest bit dissatisfied, we will gladly refund your money. Our good reputation is at stake.

**NANCY JONES HEALTH WORLD, INC. Dept. 50Y
P.O. BOX 879, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441**

OKAY! Send me a supply of INSTANTAN and if it doesn't produce a better tan than the sun, or a lamp or pills I understand I can get my money back... no delay or questions...

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☐ Double supply... 12.75

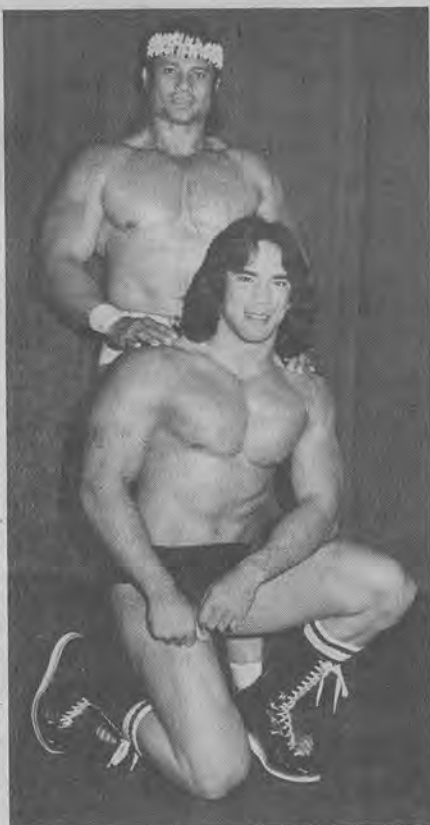
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Now that Tito Santana has regained the Intercontinental title, expect Jimmy Snuka and Rick Steamboat (above) to team more often.

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR questions!

Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: **YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.** Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion.

they will become the most successful tag team in wrestling history."

Q: "My question is for Kerry Von Erich: "If in order to get another shot at the NWA title meant that you had to wrestle one of your brothers, would you do it?"—Hans Beard, Defuniac Springs, MI

A: Kerry's answer is: "Although my family comes before my career, I would without a hesitation wrestle Mike or Kevin if it meant a title shot at Flair. We've grown up wrestling each other. It's not as if we would try to injure each other—in fact, I think that wrestling Kevin would be a tougher match than wrestling Flair. Bragging rights in the Von Erich family is not an easy thing to come by. Neither of us would want to lose."

Q: "My question is for Paul Ellering: Will you please instruct The Road Warriors to do all of us U.S. citizens a favor and destroy the wimpy Russian tag team of Ivan and Nikita Koloff? Even though they are no longer NWA tag team champions, they still think they're superior to every American wrestler. Please eliminate from wrestling

(Continued on page 58)

Q: "I would like to ask Ricky Steamboat if he has his eye on Tito Santana's Intercontinental title or if he plans to team up with Jimmy Snuka and go after The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff?"—Derek Osborne, Northville, MI

A: Steamboat's reply was, "When Greg Valentine had the Intercontinental belt, I was very anxious to wrestle him. Now that Santana has won the belt, I really don't think the promoters will match the two of us up. I have tagged with Jimmy Snuka recently and it was a real treat. Snuka and I have come a long way since the old days. I think we could do some real damage together."

Q: "This question is for Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton: Why does that wimp Jim Cornette do all your talking? Why can't you speak for yourselves?"—Stephen Caruso, Columbia, MD

A: Jim Cornette answered for The Midnight Express: "As the manager of the greatest tag team in the

world, I have assumed responsibility for all the incidentals that pertain to their career. The Express need only to concentrate on wrestling in the ring. There is no reason why they should think about anything else. Under my sure hand,



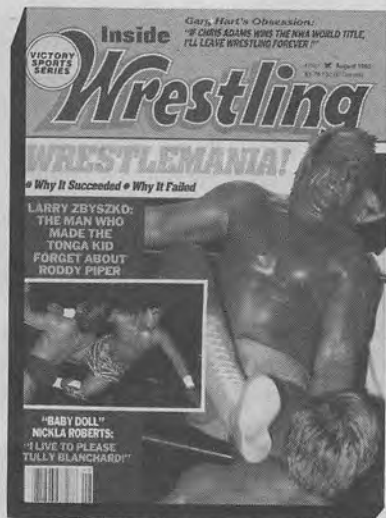
Manager Jim Cornette is flanked by Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton, The Midnight Express. Cornette does enough talking for both men.

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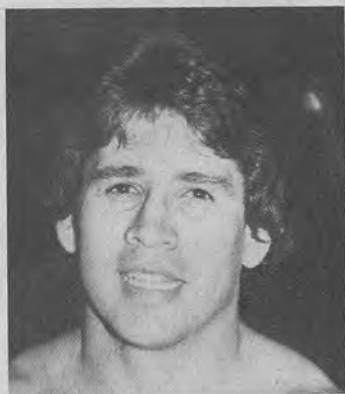
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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



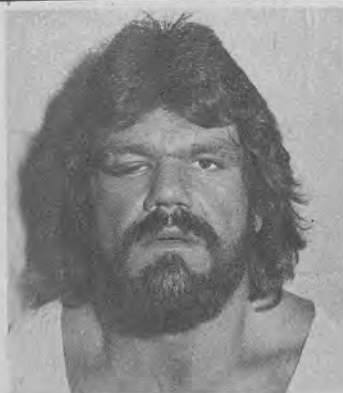
Thumbs Up to Tito Santana: The old maxim, "winners never quit," is certainly appropriate for the popular grappler from Mission, Texas. Suffering pain so acute that it would often take him an hour to unlace his boots after a match, Santana avenged his knee injury by defeating Greg Valentine in a spectacular cage match to recapture the Intercontinental title. Santana reached the top of the cage and Valentine simultaneously tried to get through the cage door. Tito swung his foot around, slammed the door shut in "The Hammer's" face, and jumped to the floor in victory.



Thumbs Up to Dick the Bruiser: The ageless Bruiser continues his crusade against the evil Mr. Pogo in the turbulent Central States region. Their feud, which has gone on for over a year now, has intensified, with Bruiser demanding a Texas Death match against the inscrutable Japanese. With the power of Bruiser's years of experience, we expect Mr. Pogo to be bounced from his position as Central States champion very shortly.

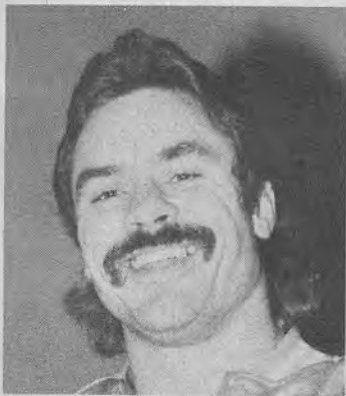


Thumbs Up to Jose Torres: The New York State Athletic Commission, headed by chairman Torres, has made it mandatory that New York promoters provide all wrestlers and boxers with \$7,500 medical insurance and \$100,000 life insurance as of September 1. For these athletes this is close to a godsend, as in the past they had to pay all of their own medical bills. If other state athletic commissions would follow suit, it would go a long way toward bringing protection for the wrestlers out of the dark ages.



Thumbs Up to "Dr. Death" Steve Williams: The former all-America linebacker from Oklahoma has demonstrated a nearly inhuman courage by returning to the ring after an elbow thrown by Brad Armstrong nearly took his eye out. Williams received 108 stitches and was back wrestling *two days later*. Whether or not Williams made an unwise decision medically is something only his doctors can answer, but one must admire his dedication and professionalism in an era when hangnails and dandruff have been known to keep athletes at home.

Thumbs Down



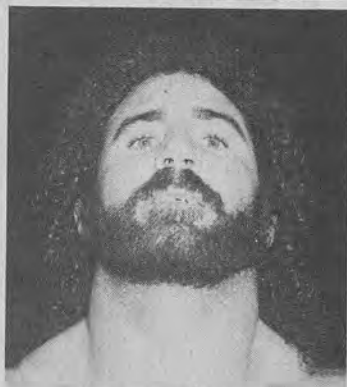
Thumbs Down to Rick Rude: Rude continues to be a rather sloppy caretaker of his talent, resorting to all sorts of illegal devices rather than wrestling to the best of his abilities. In winning the final round of the Southern title elimination tournament over Mike Graham, Rude kept his foot on the ropes for leverage and shielded the illegal act from the referee. Considering that he has the talent to have won the match without cheating, it's a great shame that his victory—and his success—must be tainted.



Thumbs Down to Vince McMahon: The man calling all of the shots in the WWF still refuses to sanction any matches pitting scientific wrestlers against one another. Thus, WWF fans are denied such tantalizing matchups as Hulk Hogan vs. Rick Steamboat, Tito Santana vs. Junkyard Dog, and Barry Windham vs. Tony Atlas. In the past, the WWF has lost several quality scientific wrestlers who were frustrated at not being able to get title matches because of this situation. The WWF's archaic policy is hurting both the fans and its rule-abiding wrestlers.



Thumbs Down to Nickla Roberts: Ever since Tully Blanchard lost Baby Doll's services for 30 days to Dusty Rhodes, Baby Doll has done everything in her power not to live up to the terms of their agreement. In one match, she came disguised as a security guard and sneaked a roll of nickels to Blanchard, which he used to cold conk Rhodes. It comes to no surprise that Baby Doll is not a woman of her word. Baby Doll deserves to be punished for her actions.

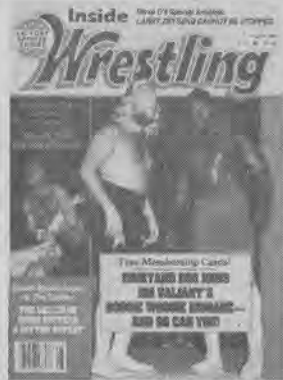


Thumbs Down to Hercules Hernandez: Hernandez dazzled the state of Florida by capturing the Southern and Florida titles within a few weeks of each other, and then just as quickly shocked the Sunshine State by giving up both titles and leaving the territory. The move left promoters scrambling to cover Hernandez's dates and to form tournaments to select new champions. If the rumors stating that Hernandez was trying to escape his bench press challenge series with Billy Jack Haynes are true, we condemn his cowardice. If not, we condemn his lack of responsibility.

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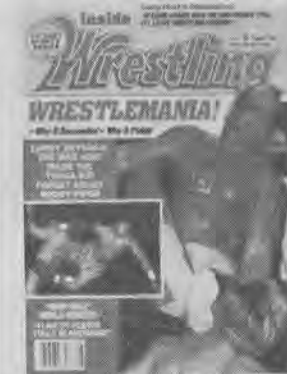
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AUGUST 1984

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.
August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.
September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.
November 1974/Stories include: Garvin, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.
June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.
August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.
September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.
February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.
April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.
June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.
August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.
September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.
October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.
December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.
January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.
February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.
May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.
August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.
October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.
November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.
December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.
March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.
April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.
August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.
October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.
November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.
January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.
February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.
June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.
July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valliant, Brower.
August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.
September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.



AUGUST 1985

October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.
November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.
February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blasse.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
November 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Andre, Snuka.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestling II, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

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February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

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September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

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November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.



OCTOBER 1982

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

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January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

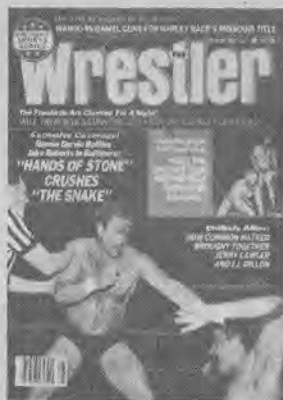
February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

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AUGUST 1984

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

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April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

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June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

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September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Brisco.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.

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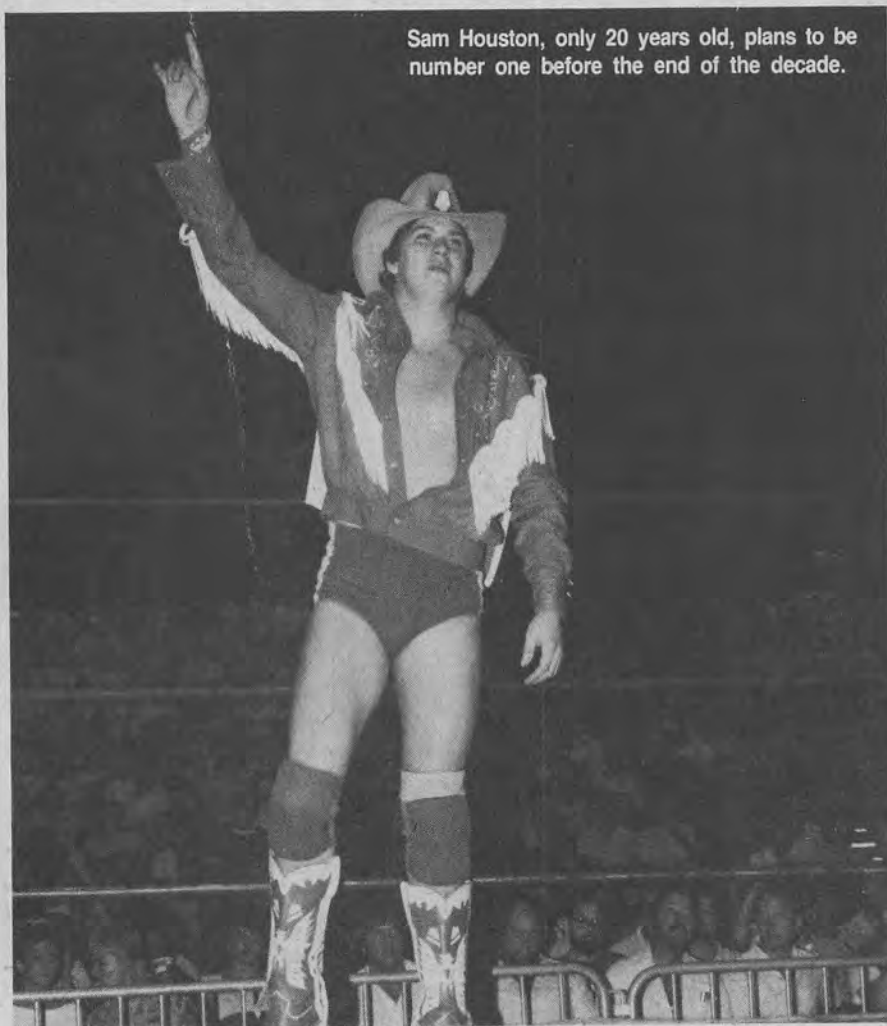
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INTRODUCING SAM HOUSTON

He's being hailed as a rising superstar in the mold of Barry Windham. But Sam Houston won't be riding on the coattails of Windham's reputation—he's doing just fine all by himself, thank you



Sam Houston, only 20 years old, plans to be number one before the end of the decade.

STILL A FEW months away from his 20th birthday, Sam Houston looks at the videotape of a six-man match from the July 6 "Great American Bash" card in Charlotte, North Carolina, with a mixture of awe, astonishment and disbelief.

"Is that really me?" Houston says as he sees himself covering Superstar Graham for the three-count. "Doggone, I guess it is!"

The pin, which Houston says is his finest moment yet as a wrestler, came at the end of a turbulent six-man tag team match that

pitted Houston, Manny Fernandez, and Buzz Tyler against the combination of Graham, Abdullah the Butcher, and Konga the Barbarian.

"Man, look at me," Houston said with a laugh. "I look like the gangly new kid on the block!"

In a sense, Houston is the new kid on the block. Sam is a youngster with just about two years as a professional behind him, and he's competing in the World Championship area, which is jam-packed with top-notch competition and seasoned pros.

It's fortunate, therefore, that two of those pros have taken Houston under their collective wing.

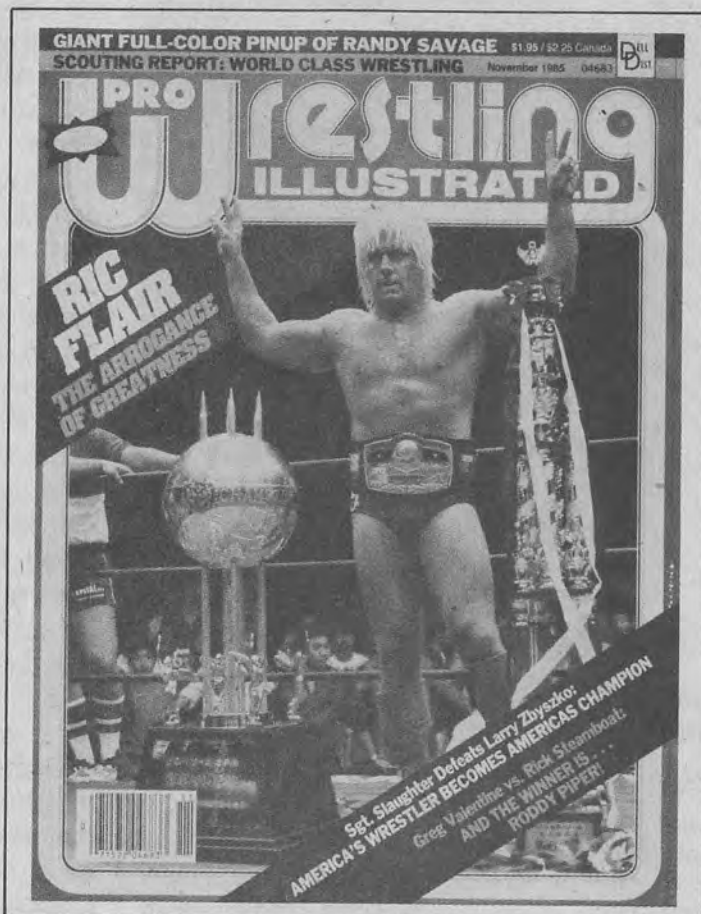
"I've been spending a lot of time these last couple of months training with Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A.," Houston explained, "and believe me, it's been some kind of experience. They've been guiding me along, not so much trying to teach me all kinds of new moves and maneuvers as much as trying to get me to harness my own natural abilities."

Those natural abilities, many say, will make Sam Houston the Barry Windham of the 1990s—or perhaps even 1986 or '87!

"I know about all the comparisons to Barry," Houston said.

(Continued on page 20)

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



Houston, whose build is similar to Barry Windham's, is also a practitioner of the bulldog headlock. Sam has been aided greatly by his training sessions with Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. The Waco, Texas, native hopes to crack the World Championship area top 10 soon.

"It's kind of flattering, I guess. A lot of it I'm sure has to do with my build. At 6'2" and 218 pounds, I'm tall and lanky, just like Barry. And I have to admit with all modesty, my bulldog is a pretty strong move."

Houston was born on October 11, 1965, and grew up in Waco, Texas. It wasn't until he was about nine or 10 years old, though, that he began to pay close attention to professional wrestling.

"My favorites were Bill Watts, Grizzly Smith, and Dusty Rhodes," Houston says. "These men were my inspiration. They all stood for more than just going out there and winning a match. They

stood for ideals. They all transcended the sport. They're really the ones who inspired me to get involved in the sport. That's why, in one respect, it's pretty strange to be able to say that Dusty is helping me in my training. It's really like a dream come true—an *American* dream come true!"

In junior high school, Houston joined the wrestling team and remained in scholastic competition through high school. His excellence on the school team led to a tryout with an amateur wrestling club at the age of 17.

"I was terrified," Houston admits. "I had a friend who got to try out for the Dallas Cowboys. He kept telling me how one minute he thought he was going to fail, then the next minute he thought he'd be great, and then the third minute he was thinking about failure again. He was a mental basket case for weeks. I

don't think I was that bad, but I was pretty nervous."

Houston made the team, which traveled throughout the Midwest, the South, and the Southeast. And it was while he was on the road with the wrestling club that he first met one of his idols, Dusty Rhodes.

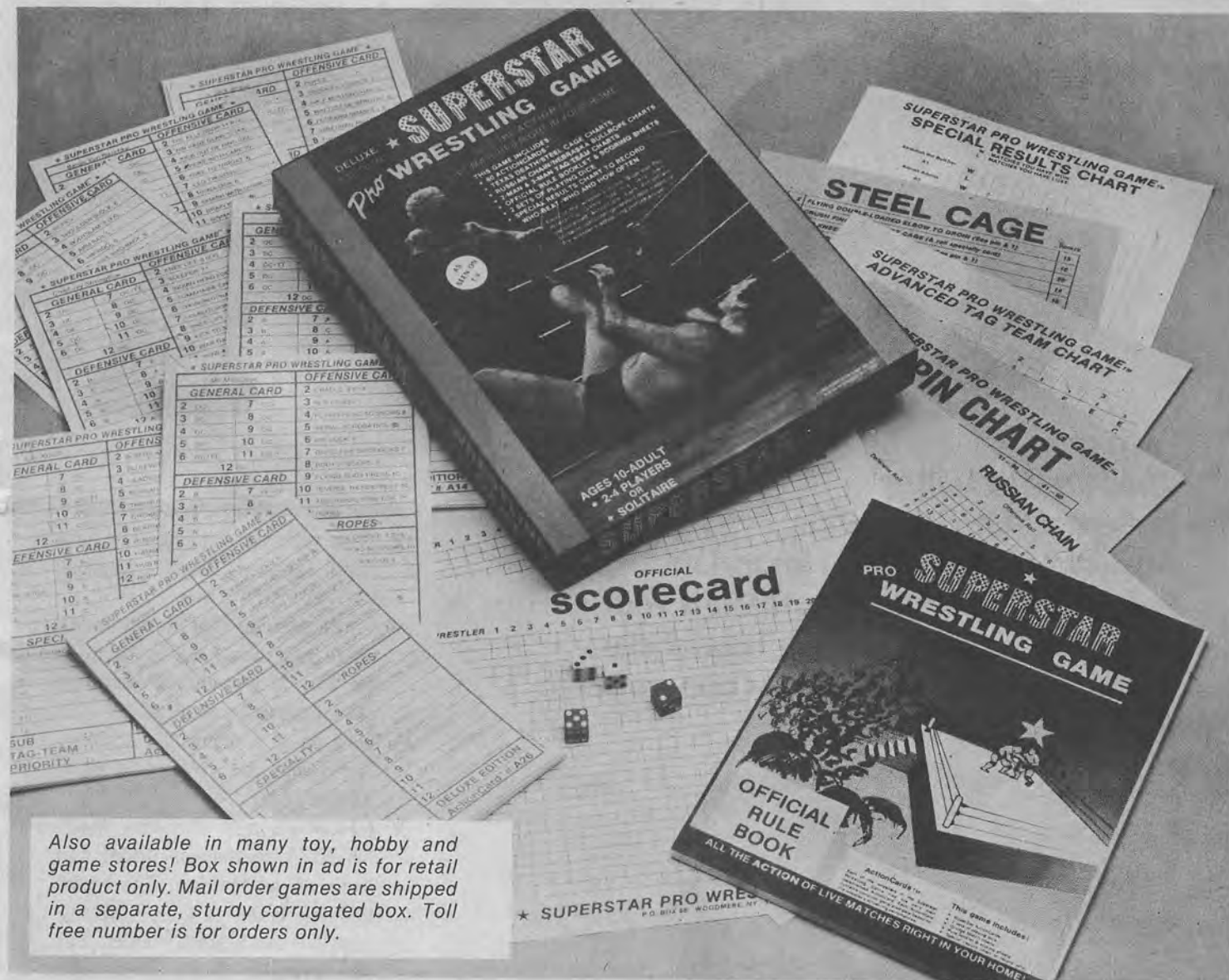
"I was in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Dusty came out to the amateur matches to check things out," Houston explained. "He stayed on to meet the team after the matches, and I got to talking with him. I was pretty nervous then, too! But I felt great, because Dusty told me that he liked my style, and he gave me the phone number for Eddie Graham. I called Eddie a couple of weeks later, and talk about confidence—he said that any friend of Dusty's is a friend of his, and he would give me a chance. I *really* felt great when I heard that!"

Graham gave Houston his first match, which took place on September 13, 1983, in Tampa, Florida. The opponent was Charlie Cook, and Houston lost the bout.

"It never really bothered me that I lost my debut match," Houston said. "It gave me a sense of humility right off the bat that I think is important if you want to be a successful pro. Knowing that you can lose is going to make you work that much harder to win. And believe me, with Dusty and T.A. backing me, I'm working pretty hard these days.

"If people are comparing me to Barry Windham today, let 'em just wait," Houston says with a smile. "I aim to be far, far better than Windham."

With two teachers of the caliber of Rhodes and T.A. helping to guide Houston's development, his aim should be very true indeed. □



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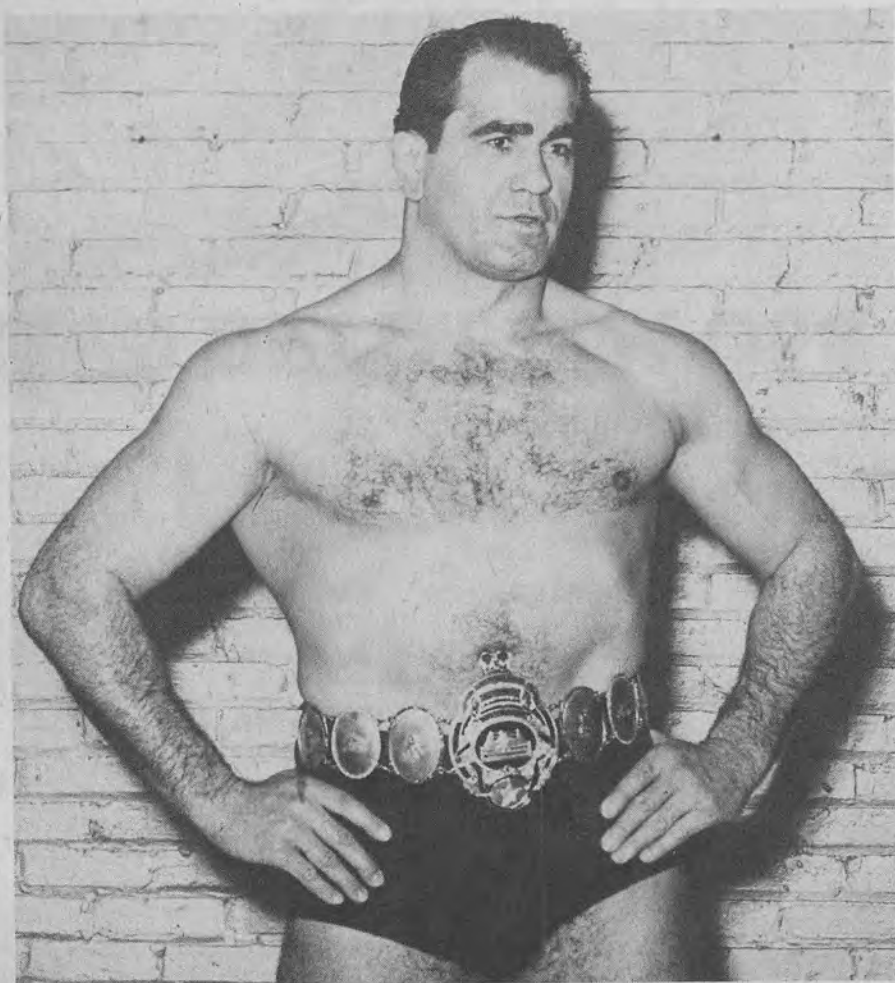
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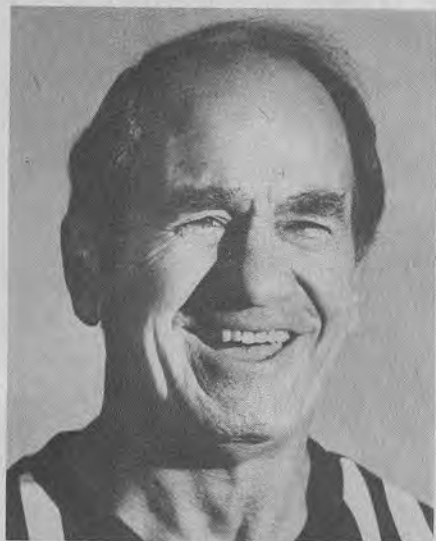
Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Lou Thesz poses with the NWA World championship belt that he would wear six times for a total of almost 15 years during his illustrious career (above). Thesz tightens his legs around the chin of another former NWA champion, Gene Kiniski, in June 1967 (opposite page).

- Q:** What were you thinking after three hours against Everett Marshall back in 1937?
- A:** I was thinking that if this match didn't end soon I was going to be the first 21-year-old to ever drop dead from a heart attack.
- Q:** How could a match last so long? Something like that would never happen today.
- A:** First of all, right after that match, the NWA commission placed time limits on all matches. The reason that one lasted so long is because Marshall was a great wrestler. You see Strangler Lewis didn't like Marshall's manager and he trained me well. He later told me that he knew he was beaten after the first hour, but, like I said, he was a fine wrestler and hung on. I had his number, though. We wrestled five times and he never won.
- Q:** How did it feel to be 21 and champion of the world?
- A:** After I got out of the hospital I felt great. But you must remember that I lost the title to Crusher Casey three months later. Then I won it back and lost it again in '39 to Bronko Nagurski. Then I went nine years without a belt. Those were lean years, years I spent wondering when things were going to fall into place. It was like the kid who won the title was a different person from the wrestler who was pushing 30 and wondering if he was in the right profession.



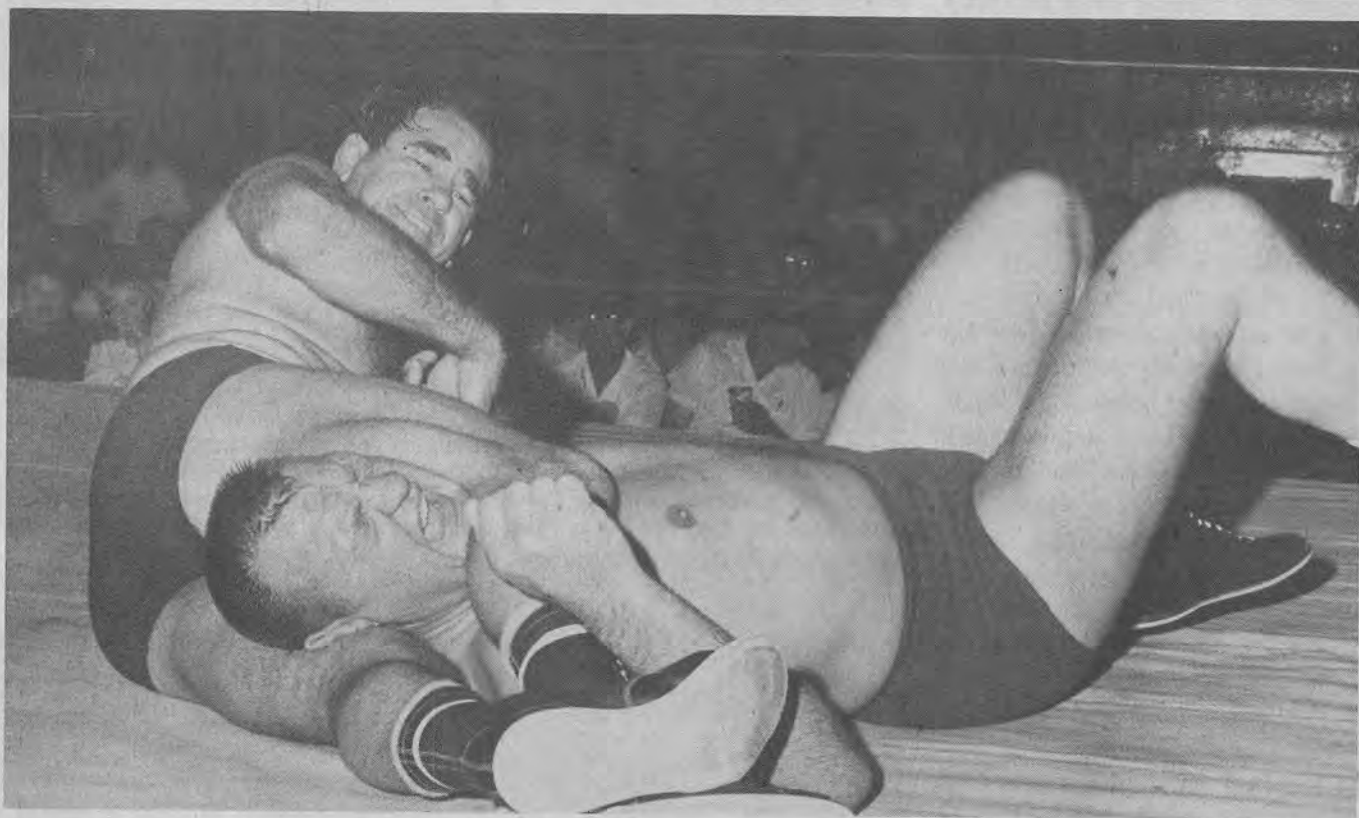
LOU THESZ

Lou Thesz was 12 in 1928, the year he attended his first wrestling match and watched in boyish wonder as Ed "Strangler" Lewis defeated Joe Stecher for the NWA title. The match left Thesz flush with enthusiasm and, as he has admitted several times, changed the course of his life. Thesz remembers going to sleep during the frigid nights of the Great Depression dreaming about the impressive, golden belt that the referee slipped around Londos' waist, fantasizing that someday that belt would be his.

As an 18-year-old, Thesz's natural strength and fluidity of motion impressed the legendary Strangler Lewis enough to have Lewis take him under his care. In 1937, Lewis turned Thesz loose on the NWA champion, Everett Marshall. Three hours and 30 minutes later Thesz's adolescent dream became real as the gold belt was placed around his waist—although he was too beaten up to enjoy the moment.

It didn't matter. Thesz would repeat that moment five more times in his illustrious career, spending close to 15 years as the NWA champion. He retired in 1967 to a career in real estate, although he has on occasion donned the tights and has always kept close tabs on the sport.

As part of *The Wrestler's* anniversary celebration, Senior Editor Bill Apter spoke with Thesz about the changes the sport has undergone over the past 20 years.



Q: So when you won the title for the fifth time in 1948, you made sure to hang on to it for a while.

A: I had it for almost nine years and I figure I traveled about 250,000 miles a year. I also figure I made about a dollar a mile.

Q: How did your last title reign, from 1963 to 1966, differ from the first?

A: Oh, my God! They were like night and day. I was a much better wrestler back in '63. I made so many mistakes when I was young. And you can tell by how short a time I was able to hold on to my first

three titles. Wrestling is all experience. At least it was back in my day.

Q: How is it different today?

A: Wrestling has changed so dramatically over the last 20-30 years that they are almost two entirely different sports. In my day, men wrestled. Today everyone must have a gimmick. One guy needs music, another guy needs a costume, another guy needs a valet. A couple of guys, like Backlund and Bruiser Brody and Billy Robinson, they are doing the sport justice. Even The

Iron Sheik is a great wrestler, despite his costume.

Q: What was your reaction toward Gorgeous George when he first came on the scene?

A: George actually was not a bad wrestler, although he was too light to win a championship. I put him away in six minutes. After the war, there was a rush of freak and gimmick wrestlers, but none of them were able to draw a full house. I looked past George's pomp and viewed him as a wrestler. And as a wrestler he was all right.



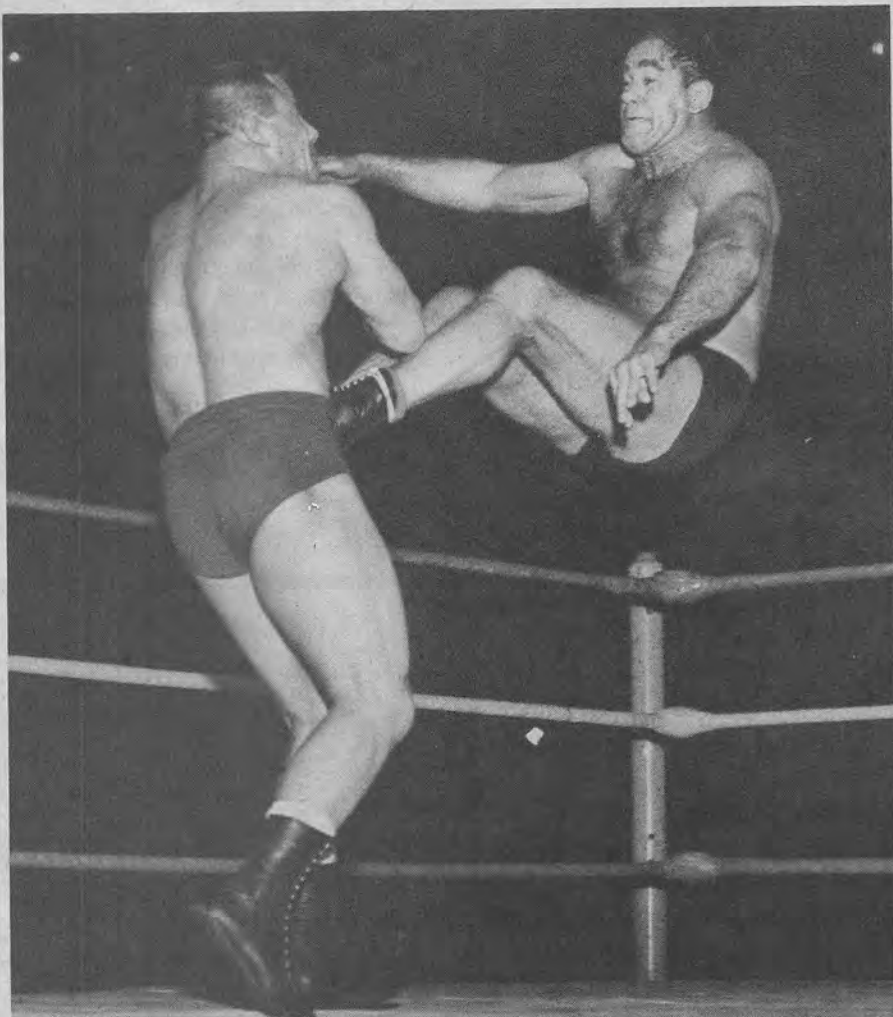
Q: What about the trend toward the big, strong and muscular wrestler nowadays? One who is big on power but short on science.

A: I'm not quick to call a fella like Hulk Hogan a wrestler. Hogan is a result of better nutrition and weight training. He can't wrestle himself out of a paper bag—but then he doesn't have to. His strength can compensate for what he doesn't know technically. He reminds me a lot of Dick the Bruiser when he first started wrestling. Short on skill, long on power.

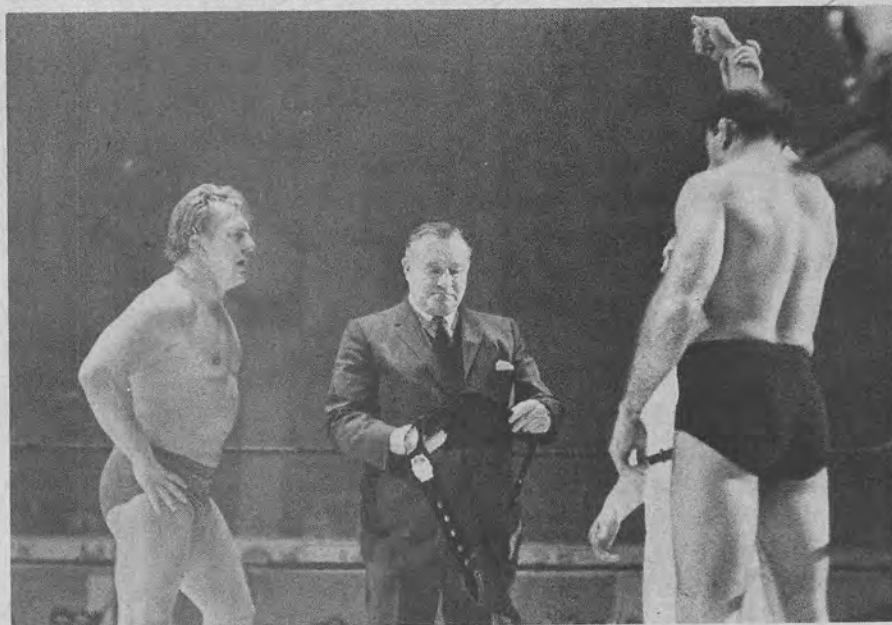
Q: And you're critical of this kind of wrestler.

A: It's hard not to be. I remember men who would wrestle with broken bones and still perform some of the most dazzling, spectacular moves you would ever see. Some men fought their entire careers without ever getting a title shot. Today, these guys are paid ridiculous amounts of money to brawl, and it seems as if there is a title for every wrestler. It's a little ridiculous.

Q: In the past you've criticized current NWA champion Ric Flair as being too pompous and conceited and for not giving the NWA title the respect it deserves. Has your opinion



Thesz executes his favorite finishing maneuver, the vertical cross-body block, against Bob Orton Sr. in 1964 (top left). Always quick to adapt to any situation, Thesz spots an opening and delivers a dropkick to Pepper Gomez's stomach (above). A disbelieving Buddy Rogers looks on as his NWA title belt is handed to Thesz on January 24, 1963 (below).



ion changed at all?

A: You'll notice that on my list of the top 10 wrestlers in the past 20 years [published in *The Wrestler*, October 1985], Ric Flair is number

three. His ability as a wrestler is unquestionable. It's his style and arrogance that annoys me. I was proud and humble to be champi-

(Continued on page 52)



SLAUGHTER



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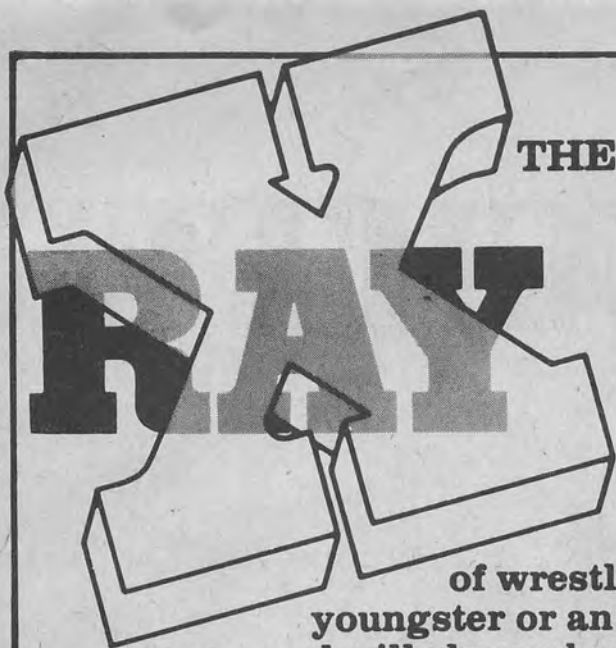
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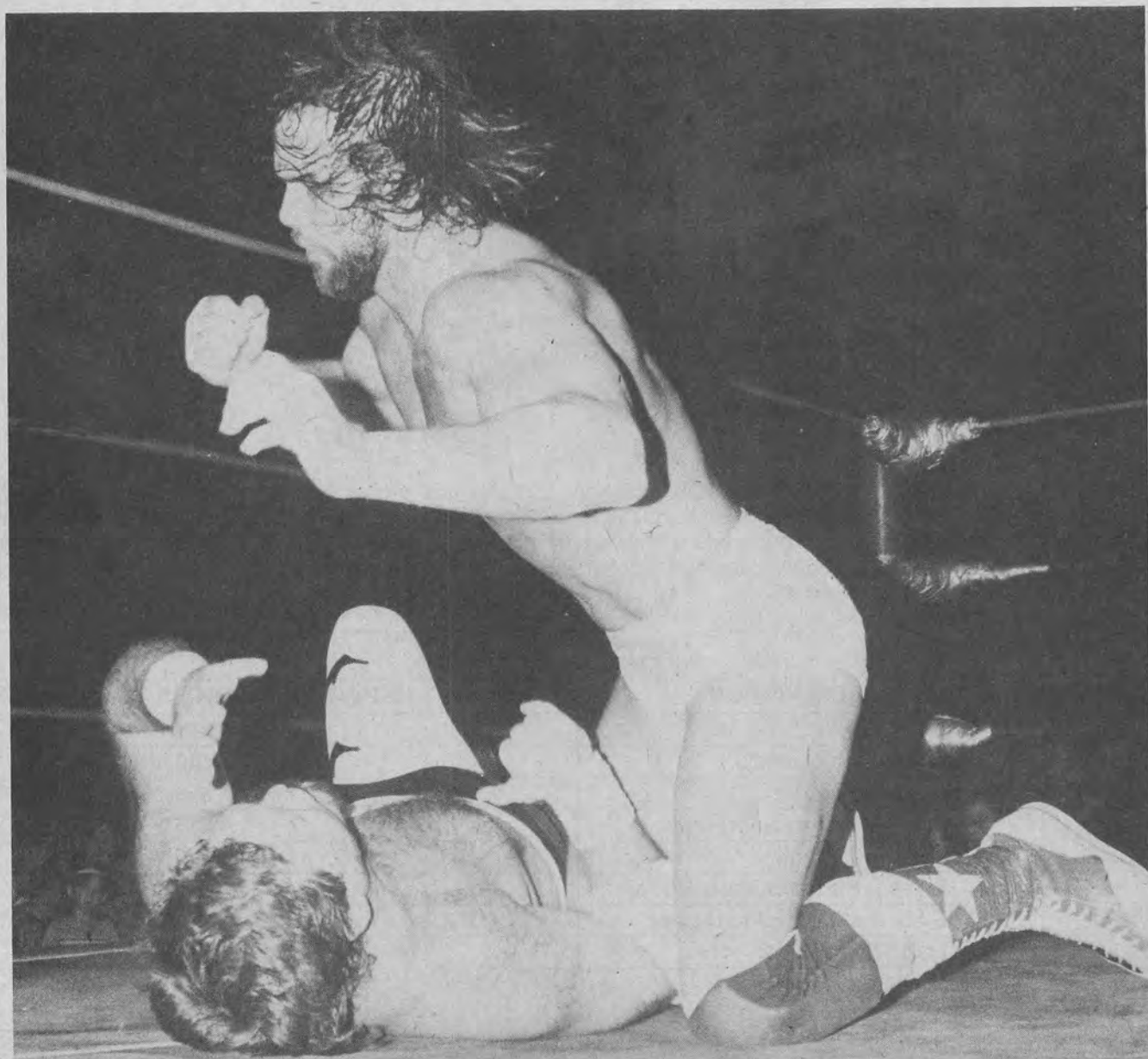


THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



RANDY SAVAGE

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Randy Savage likes to use both brawling and aerial tactics in the ring, and he has not only the perfect body, but the perfect mentality for both. Following his Mid-Southern feud with Jerry Lawler (above), The Macho Man has come to the WWF, where he has set his sights on the federation's number one man, Hulk Hogan.



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"The Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage match-up is kind of like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, if you know what I mean. In Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage you have two incredibly strong, forceful men—both physically and mentally. But Savage is the dark side of Hogan, and he uses his strength in evil ways that Hogan never could if he tried. He's going to give the Hulkster some trouble, for sure."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



TERRY FUNK

"There's something about Randy Savage that I like. This is a man with style. He's got muscles, he's got wrestling ability, and he's got the enthusiasm and drive to take him anywhere in wrestling that he wants to go. If you ask me, Hulk Hogan's days are numbered as WWF champion, though I wouldn't be surprised if Randy decides to chew on Tito Santana's Intercontinental title as an appetizer."

Terry Funk has held the NWA World championship, the Missouri State title, and a number of other regional titles.



GENE KINISKI

"Randy Savage is rough, he's tough, and he's a scrapper. Personally, I'd like to see him get into the ring with Ric Flair, but instead he's chosen the easy way out: the WWF. I say easy, because Hulk Hogan can't do anything more than a legdrop and an elbowsmash, and Savage can do both of those better than Hogan, no contest, though he doesn't have Hogan's weight behind him. But he does have a hell of a lot more skill than Hogan, and that'll carry him far in the WWF."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.



BUDDY ROGERS

"If there's one thing I don't like about a wrestler like Randy Savage it's his constant bragging, bragging, bragging. I really don't care how many women Randy thinks he's had in the past year. I want to see wrestling, and when Savage strips away all the garbage and gets into that ring, the bottom line is that he's not a great wrestler. He's essentially a brawler. He's a very one-dimensional wrestler with a big mouth."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.



LOU THESZ

"Randy's the kind of a kid who could do it all—if he tried. The thing is, he doesn't try. He gets out there and beats his opponent senseless outside the ring. I'd like to see him cut down on the flamboyant moves, on the piledrivers out of the ring, and on the attacks from behind, and face his man straight on. Because if he put his mind to it, he is definitely capable. He's cutting his own throat with his rulebreaking."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



VERNE GAGNE

"I respect Randy Savage. I don't agree with his tactics, but I respect him. He's like a maniac inside that ring. Looking at his matches, I imagine that wrestling him must be like trying to hold a rabid Doberman inside a paper bag—there's just no control. He's named well, because 'savage' certainly describes his style. I'm sure he keeps a lot of chiropractors and surgeons quite busy."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years by the wrestling media.

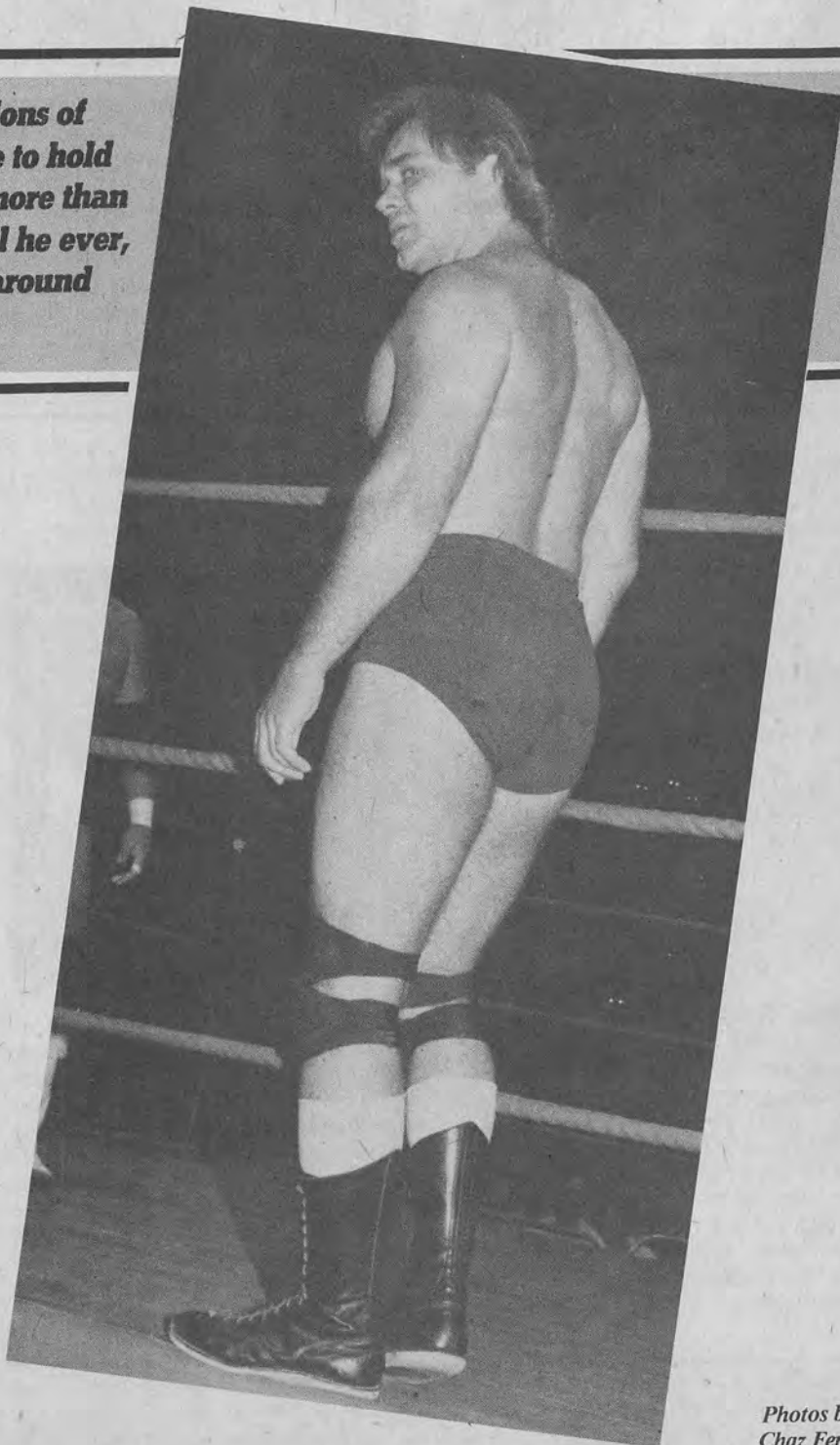
WHY LARRY ZBYSZKO CAN'T HOLD ON TO A TITLE

Larry Zbyszko suffers from delusions of grandeur, yet he has been unable to hold on to a major championship for more than a few months. The question is will he ever, or will his hatred for everything around him cause him to self-destruct?

ASSUMING THAT THE real worth of any wrestler lies in his ability to capture and defend a title, then Larry Zbyszko ain't worth an umbrella in a blizzard. Zbyszko has held three titles in his erratic career and held on to them for a total of seven months. One of those titles, the National championship, Zbyszko purchased amidst a heap of controversy, and was able to keep for all of 14 days.

Yet any wrestling fan with one good eye and half an ear knows Larry Zbyszko to be among the most feared and devastating wrestlers to emerge in the past 15 years. They know Zbyszko to be the man who caused Bruno Sammartino to bow in pain and, many insist, hasten the "Living Legend's" retirement from the ring.

So why, while dozens of lesser men are able to maintain titles of all sorts, has the sport handcuffed Larry Zbyszko? What is it in Zbyszko's nature and temperament that has prevented him from translating his obvious skill into the shine and substance of a championship belt?



Photos by
Chaz Fenn

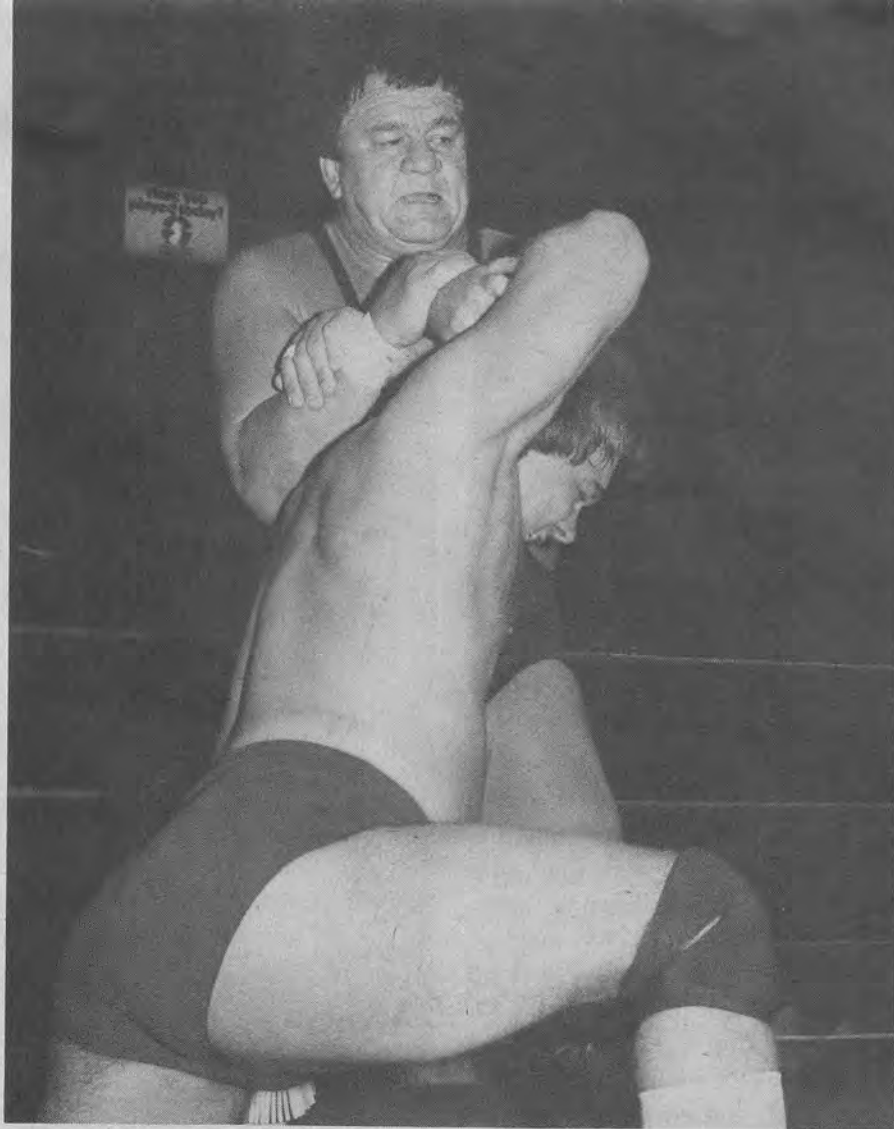
On the one hand, Zbyszko is wrestling's John McEnroe—their mutual arrogance notwithstanding—in regard to their inabilities to capture certain titles. McEnroe's only Achilles heel being Roland Garros, scene of the French Open, while Zbyszko's failures are more geographically complex—every arena has proven unfriendly to Zbyszko in his championship encounters.

Explanations are as plentiful as strings on a tennis racket or stitches on a cut opened by a foreign object.

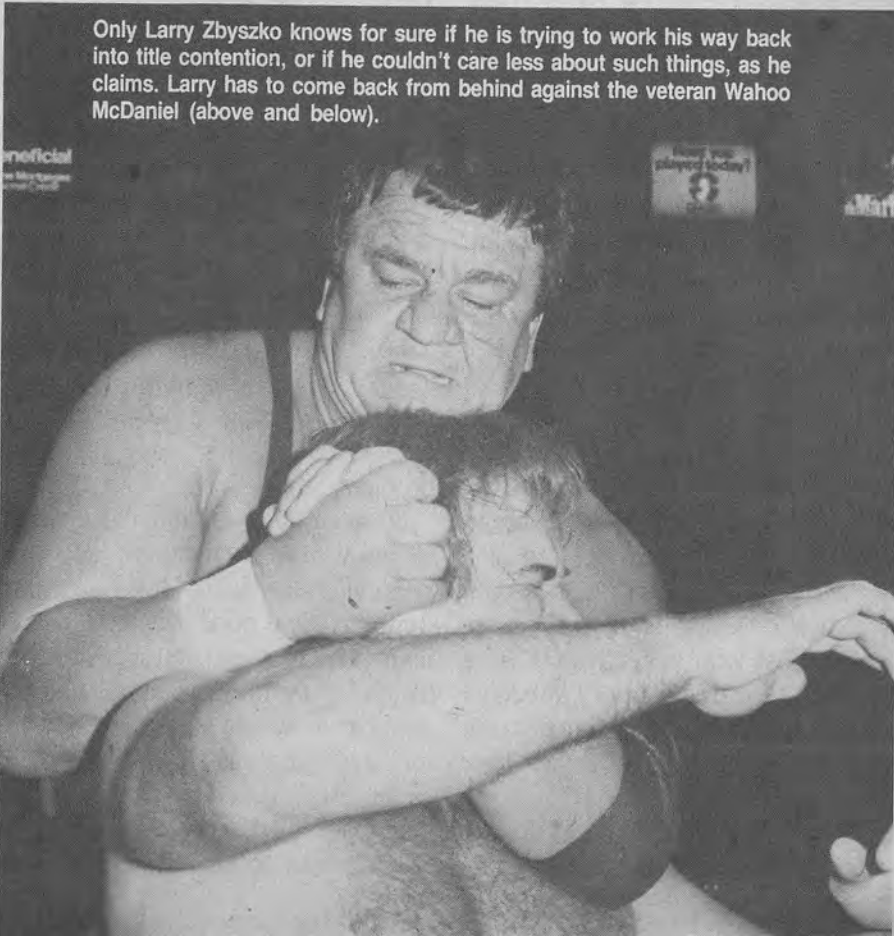
Pressure supplanting skill. Both McEnroe and Zbyszko obviously have the skills necessary to win, but the pressures accompanying their title tilts have been paralyzing. How else can one account for the crumbling John McEnroe underwent when, up two sets to none against a weakening Ivan Lendl in the 1984 French Open finals, he dropped the next three sets without resistance. Or, how does one explain Larry Zbyszko's domination of Bob Backlund during a 1980 battle for the WWF championship that ended with Backlund's inexplicable pin of Zbyszko?

They don't want it bad enough. It's hard to believe that both of these men would stop at anything to silence the shipload of critics that have haunted them since day one of their careers. At least McEnroe has Wimbledon, Forest Hills, and Australia to fall back upon. Owing the Americas title for three months is hardly an occasion to boast. Believe us, Zbyszko wants it, perhaps more than anyone in wrestling.

Feuds. In the 1980 finals of Wimbledon and the French Open, McEnroe jumped out to an early lead against archrival, Bjorn Borg, only to watch like a spectator as Borg thundered back to victory in both matches. The glacial demeanor of Borg, combined with McEnroe's urgent struggle to remove the Swedish monkey from his back, contributed to McEnroe simply falling apart. He played the personality rather than the opponent. Zbyszko's entire career—post Bruno—has been one



Only Larry Zbyszko knows for sure if he is trying to work his way back into title contention, or if he couldn't care less about such things, as he claims. Larry has to come back from behind against the veteran Wahoo McDaniel (above and below).





of constant feuding, of allowing emotions to overwhelm ring skills and being unable to separate bitterness and excellence. As long as Zbyszko allows his hostility to cloud his strategy, he'll continue pining for a championship.

On the other hand (we left the one hand suspended in tangent about four paragraphs back), Larry Zbyszko might belong to that intemperate minority of wrestlers who could not care less about titles, belts, and other such adornments. "I don't give a good goddamn about titles," he barked in reply to our question. "Titles are for idiots like Sgt. Slaughter. Men like him need labels. They need medals. They need fans cheering for them like bleating sheep. They are so insecure that without constant public approval they cry. Like little children.

"So I can't hold on to a belt, can I? Who needs a belt? They're confining. With belts come rules. All of a sudden you have old men telling you when to defend it, how often, and against who. I need that? Titles are for wimps without direction. They're for people who need to be pointed in the right direction their whole lives.

"Without a title, I'm still in demand. Without a belt, I'm still highly



Zbyszko stuns Wahoo with a forearm to the throat (top left). The combatants are deadlocked in a test of strength (above). Larry is one of those wrestlers who would probably benefit from the guidance of a manager.

paid. And believe me—if I felt it were necessary to confirm my greatness by winning a world title, I would do it. It's easy. It's no problem."

By attempting to shift the emphasis away from a championship's importance, Zbyszko is doing just the opposite. One need only review the films of his match against Sgt. Slaughter to understand how catastrophic it was to Zbyszko's ego to lose his Americas title to the Sergeant. And how can Zbyszko account for the \$25,000 he once paid Killer Brooks to buy the National ti-

tle? He refused to comment on either issue, although the answer is quite clear.

What Larry Zbyszko needs is a manager strong enough to handle his runaway ego and penchant for self-destruction. A good manager would channel Zbyszko's hostility into productive methods of action, which should result in a lengthy, vicious—this is Larry Zbyszko we're talking about—and satisfying title reign. But Zbyszko must recognize his lack of self-discipline himself, since no one is breaking down his door to help. □

Morton & Gibson Defeat The Russians: ROCKIN' ALL OVER THE WORLD!

Photos by Floyd See



There may be stranger things in heaven and earth, but none more surprising than what happened on a warm, summer night in Shelby, North Carolina. That's when Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, overmatched and outweighed, and coming off the shattering loss of their Mid-South tag team title, defeated the Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev to win the NWA World tag team title

IN THE DRESSING ROOM, trying to find cover from the cascade of champagned effervescence, Robert Gibson beamed the mischievous smile that's sent girls in all 50 states screaming with boppish glee, and said to no one in particular, "This is the happiest day of my life!"

Such is the unpredictable nature of professional wrestling—and of the lives of professional athletes—that just three short months before, Morton and Gibson were relics on the athletic junk heap. Without the benefit of an injury or any other physical excuse to hide behind, The Rock 'n' Roll Express had slowed from a team generally recognized one of the two or three quickest in the country, to one best described by the adjectives "lethargic" and "careless."

Before their match against Steve "Dr. Death" Williams and Ted DiBiase for the Mid-South tag team title, Rick Morton was quoted as saying, "Hey, we've wrestled men like them before. We both know what to expect. Bobby and I are ready for any kind of action. We'll handle them."

They then went out and had about the worst night of their career and lost their Mid-South belts to the hungry duo of DiBiase and Williams.

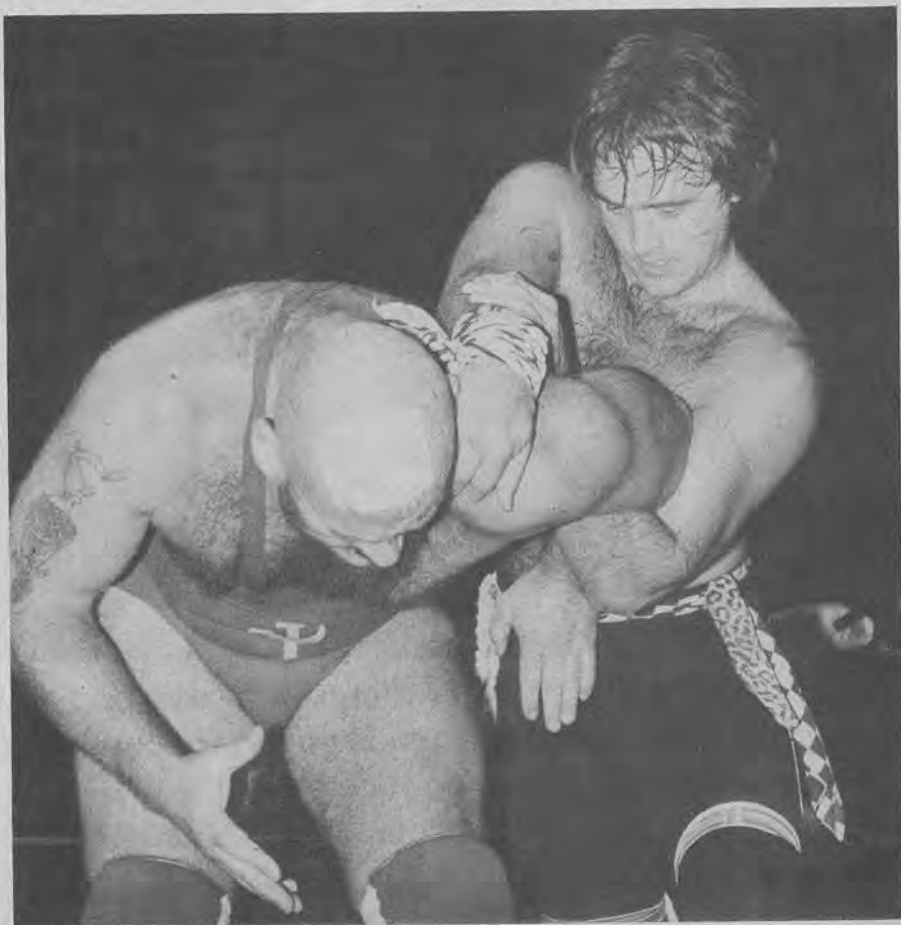
The music, as one headline screamed after the loss, had certainly died. Morton and Gibson appeared listless in their next several matches, prompting announcer Gordon Solie, a longtime follower of the duo, to make a comparison between them and another young team who had lost their championship belts.

"The Rock 'n' Roll Express are going through exactly what [WWF tag team champions] Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo went through after they lost to The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff. Losing a championship is as devastating as winning a championship can be uplifting. For a young team, handling the first big loss is very important. Windham and Rotundo bounced back. I suspect Morton and Gibson will, too."

Solie proved his prescience when on July 9 Rick Morton flew off the top rope to pin a stunned Ivan Koloff for



Rick Morton springs from the tumbuckles, delivering a fistedrop against Krusher Khrushchev (above). Robert Gibson's armlock renders Ivan Koloff's powerful left arm useless (below).

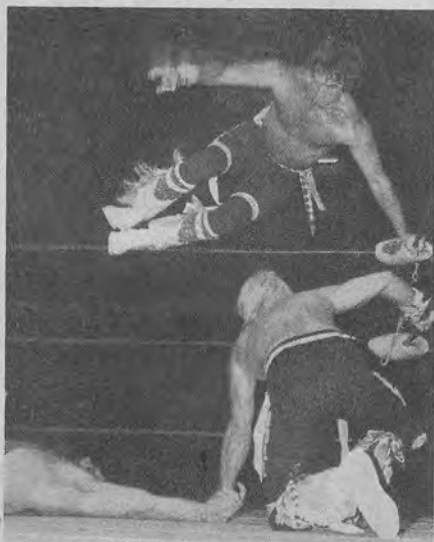


the NWA World tag team title. Koloff was defending the title that night with Krusher Khrushchev, as his nephew Nikita had a prior commitment in another city. The absence of Nikita certainly hurt the team, but given the Rock 'n' Rolls' horrible performances as of late, it's plain what was going through Ivan's head. A quick match against two opponents in the throes of a bad slump. In and out for an easy victory. Better off saving Nikita for The Road Warriors.

For Ivan Koloff, July 9th evolved into a rare and costly lapse in judgment. Koloff, like so many others, had written The Rock 'n' Roll Express off as dead. It was a mistake, as Robert Gibson explained, that he and Morton had welcomed.

"We knew that we were a lot better than they were at wrestling. That's one of the reasons we got this title shot. We knew the Koloffs were looking for a breather in between bouts with The Road Warriors. We knew that, under the right circumstances, we could take 'em.

"When we found out that Nikita



Morton holds Ivan's arm to the mat as Gibson comes hurtling over the turnbuckles (above). As Khrushchev applies a Russian backbreaker on Morton, Gibson alertly charges into the ring and prevents his partner's legs from coming down (above right).



The Russians' plan was to try to prevent the Rock 'n' Rolls from making their characteristic quick tags. Koloff tries to keep Morton away from Gibson (above) and then tries to prevent Gibson from tagging Morton (below).



wouldn't be part of the team, we took it as an omen. Khrushchev is tough, but he's no Nikita. The timing was right. It was a very tough match. We had to take it to them. Create our own breaks. I don't think Ivan Koloff has ever been that surprised in his life."

Koloff had to experience an uncomfortable sensation of *deja vu*. It wasn't very long ago that he lost the NWA belts to Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez while teaming with another expatriot American, Don Kernodle. After the loss, their relationship quickly degenerated into a lethal and bloody feud. Koloff refused to comment on what this loss meant to the team of Khrushchev, Koloff, and Koloff, although Nikita was enraged at the loss.

"Something wrong! Something wrong!" he thundered. "Something not very good, here. Something smells very bad. No one pins uncle Ivan. Especially some puny American punk. There is something very wrong and Nikita Koloff will find out what it is."

It was plain from the start that The Rock 'n' Roll Express had rolled back the calendar. The execution of their free-flying techniques brought back memories of Gibson and Morton of seven months ago. They tagged with grace and speed, combined an effective offense at the same time they were deflecting Koloff and Khrushchev's power moves with a quickness that the Russians were obviously unprepared for.

In the end, as it is with most wrestling matches, it came down to who wanted it more. Robert Gibson and Ricky Morton were after more than a victory, after more than even a title. This match was a restorative. It was vindication, and judging from the smiles that lit the dressing room following the match, it was vindication of the sweetest kind.

The blame will eventually fall not on Ivan Koloff's ability as a wrestler and manager, but on his insistence in befriending men of communist sympathies without the appropriate Russian origins. The lesson for Ivan Koloff will not be learned in the ring—he simply must learn to choose better friends. □

Hulk Destroys Mr. Fuji:

***Why should only the
wrestlers feel the
wrath of
Hulkamania, Hulk
Hogan seemed to be
saying as he laid
waste to the evil
manager Mr. Fuji.
The WWF champion
has an unusual plan
to clean up the WWF***

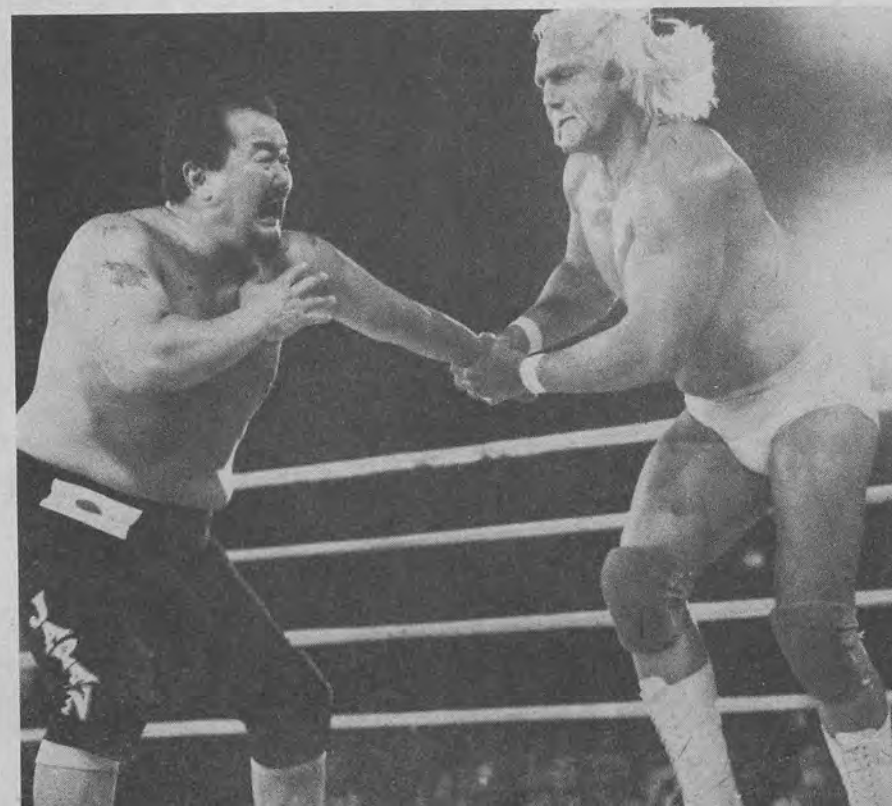
THE LATE GRAND WIZARD, nefarious mastermind of wrestling strategy, could talk for hours about the role of managers in professional wrestling. "Managers," the Wizard was fond of saying, "are vital to this industry. Without our brains, the sport would crumble into little pieces."

The Wizard would then cock his turban, stare you straight in the eye and pose his question: "Who are you going to rely on? The wrestlers? Ha! A more dimwitted, boorish collection of men could not be found anywhere on this planet. The men I have managed could not get wet in a thunderstorm. Without my aid and guidance they would be on the assembly line putting square pegs into round holes, drooling."

The Wizard's stable of drooling nincompoops included WWF heavyweight champion Stan Stasiak and WWF tag team champions Mr. Fuji and Toru Tanaka, so one can conclude that



ONE DOWN, FOUR TO GO!



either the Wizard was indeed a managerial mesmirist or that his wrestlers were not entirely incompetent.

Either way, the role of managers in professional wrestling has been debated pro and con since the first manager accompanied a wrestler to the ring. There can be no doubts, though, for better or worse, that these cain-raising (and cane-wielding), motor-mouthed, and pompous brats have changed the face of professional wrestling forever. The tactics of men like Freddie Blassie, Jim Cornette, Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, and Precious Paul Ellering have caused many wrestlers to alter or completely change their strategy. Through devices that are neither legal nor moral, these managers have won titles for their men, caused injuries to many unsuspecting wrestlers, and taken from the sport the meaning of fair and equal competition.

Over the years, many wrestlers have risen up in protest over such interference, but little in the way of official sanction has ever been enforced. Managers enjoy a free reign in, near, and around the ring and no one, it seems, can do anything about it.

Of course, Hulk Hogan has carved a multimillion-dollar career out of doing what no one else seems able to do, and Hogan has finally become fed up with the leniency that managers enjoy

(Continued on page 64)

Hulk Hogan expects to draw criticism for his plan to physically eliminate the WWF managers from wrestling, but it's something he feels he must do. Hogan overpowers Mr. Fuji, probably the most capable of any of the five current WWF managers.

Ric Flair Wants YOU To Sign His Petition:

“HELP KEEP THE VON ERICHS HEALTHY!”

NWA World champion Ric Flair says he needs your help. He wants you to add your name to a petition asking World Class area officials to put an end to any more Flair-Von Erich title matches. If these matches continue, Flair claims, the Von Erichs could be seriously hurt!

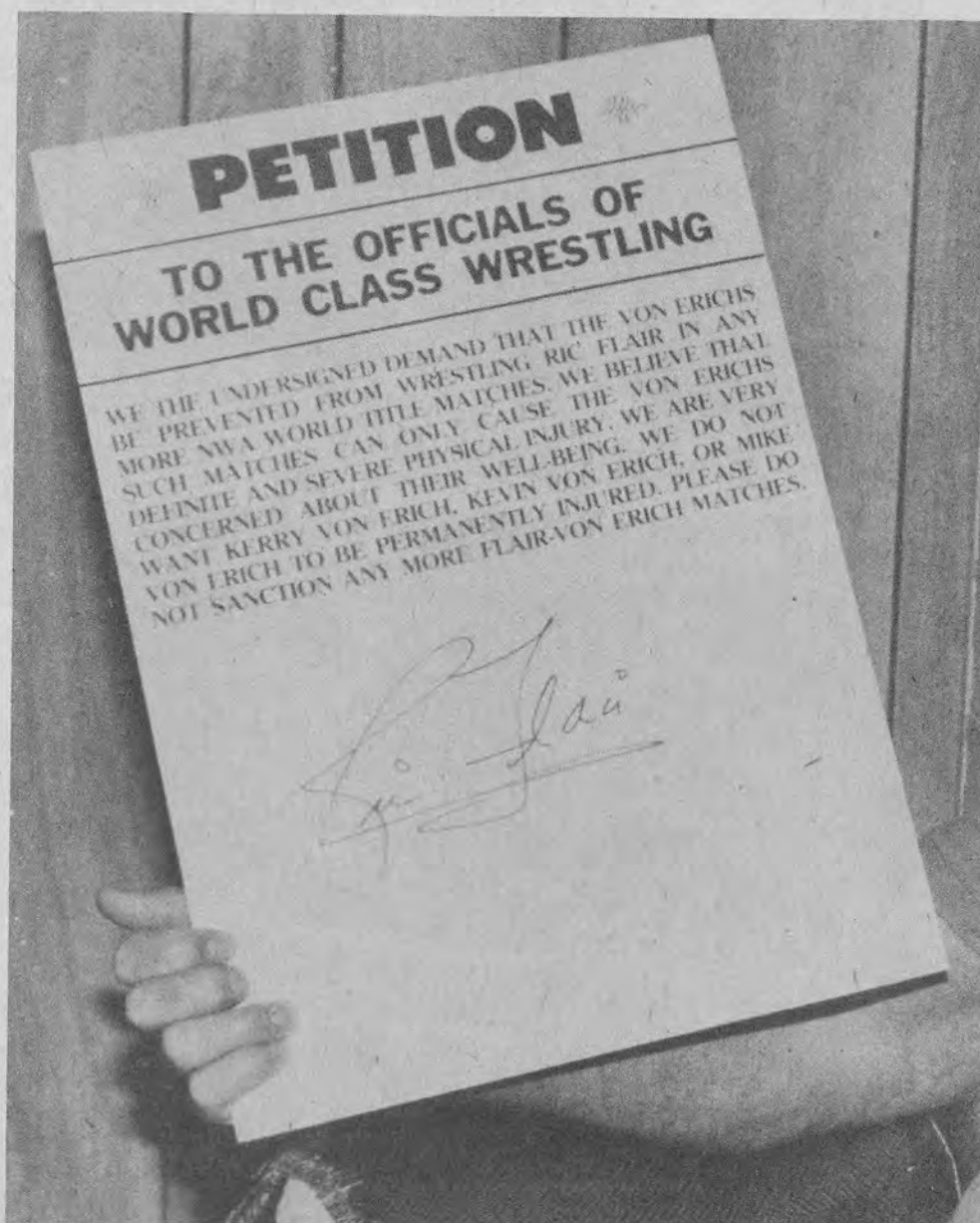
RIC FLAIR LOOKED at the words printed on the piece of poster board and smiled. He took a marking pen into his hand and proudly signed his name at the bottom. The pen scratched across the board with bold strokes of self-assurance, and one was immediately reminded of John Hancock's signature on the Declaration of Independence.

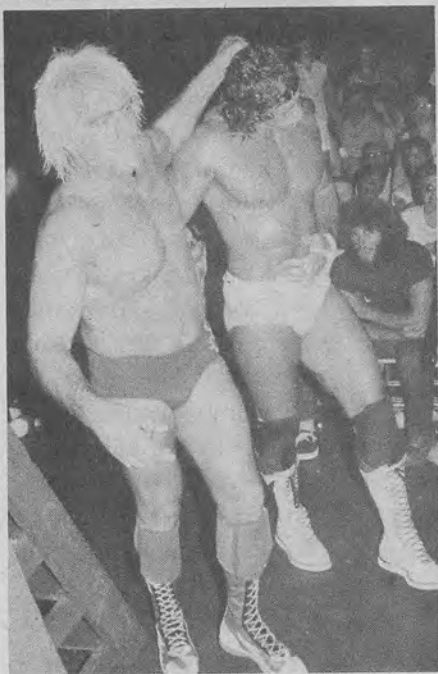
The analogy was appropriate, for the document Flair signed was something of a declaration of his own independence—not from an oppressive British crown government, of course, but from a trio of brothers from Denton County, Texas.

Flair placed the cap on the pen and smiled.

“Let's just hope that the Von Erichs take this in the spirit with which it is intended,” the NWA World champion said. “This is a friendly warning, a warning that I'm making for their own good. If I have to step into the ring with the Von Erichs as often in the next six months as I have in the past six months, there's going to be trouble. Big trouble. Someone is going to get hurt, and it won't be me.”

Flair's aggravation at having wrestled the Von Erichs so many times in recent months is well founded,





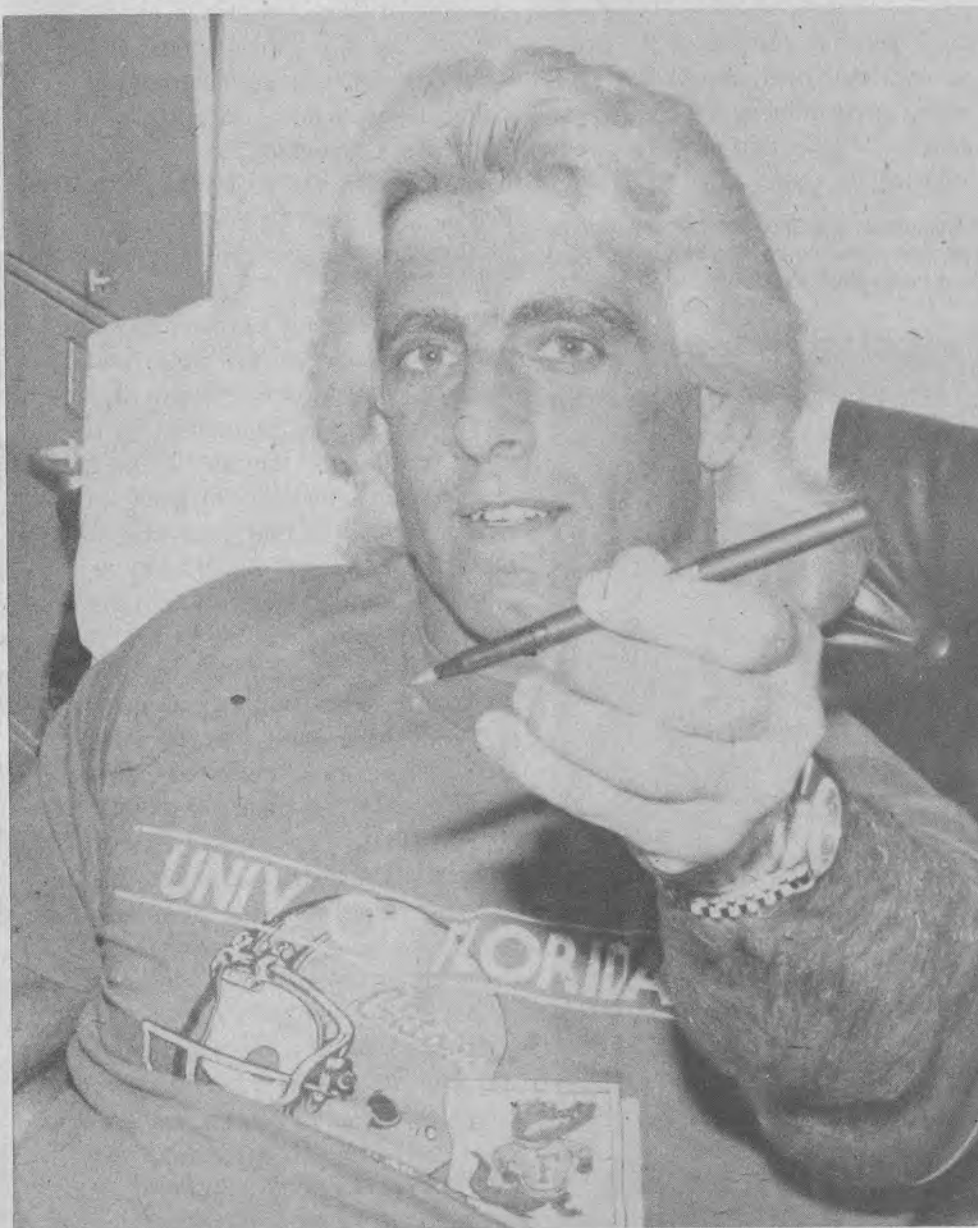
FLAIR VS. KERRY VON ERICH



FLAIR VS. KEVIN VON ERICH



FLAIR VS. MIKE VON ERICH



though applicable really to only Kerry and Kevin.

Indeed, it seems that whenever Flair's schedule of title defenses takes him to Texas (which it does on an average of two days per month), there's a better than 80 percent chance that the champion will find himself defending the title against either Kerry or Kevin Von Erich.

The mathematics is simple: Two days per month multiplied by six months. That's a total of 12 match contracts, about 10 of which had a Von Erich signature at the bottom.

But Flair has faced the Von Erichs in title matches that have occurred in other than Texas arenas. A few examples:

- Honolulu, Hawaii; February 13, 1985; Ric Flair defended his title against Kerry Von Erich.

- St. Louis, Missouri; March 29, 1985; Ric Flair successfully defended his title, albeit by disqualification, against Kerry Von Erich.

- Tampa, Florida; May 7, 1985; Ric Flair was disqualified but retained his title in a match against Kerry Von Erich.

- St. Louis, Missouri; May 12, 1985; Ric Flair defended his title against Kevin Von Erich.

"Kerry is the absolute worst," Flair

said. "The guy hounds me like a kid sister tagging along after her older brother who goes off to play baseball with his friends. If I've wrestled Kerry once in six months I've wrestled him a dozen times.

"The problem with Kerry is that he's had a taste of the championship," Flair continued. "Once you've been to the top of the mountain, you get accustomed to the view very, very quickly, you know what I'm saying? But there's only room for one man at the top, and that's me. And I enjoy this view, and I'm not about to share it with anyone, least of all Kerry.

"Kerry beat me once, and that's what's keeping him going. Frankly, I think I've been more than gracious in giving him all these return title matches, but he's not going to beat me again. It just won't happen.

"Then you have Kevin, who thinks he can duplicate the flukey success his brother was lucky enough to en-



joy," Flair said. "But he can't. There's no way. And then the World Class area commissioners are getting together to give that upstart puppy Mike a title shot."

During his latest swing through the World Class area, Kevin Von Erch received the majority of title defenses against Flair. For their own good, Flair says, the Von Erchs should forget about the NWA title. Flair takes Kevin down with a suplex (top) and delivers a vicious knee to the face (below).



Flair laughed heartily.

"Look, I don't care about the fact that the World Class officials and commissioners conspire to give a Von Erch a title shot before they give one to Chris Adams or Gino Hernandez. That's okay. But I want to ask just one question: How many times must a man take a beating before he realizes that he's just not going to defeat me? Hey, for Kerry Von Erch the number must be into the hundreds! Kevin is a little smarter, maybe it'll only take 20 or 30 matches before he's through. Mike's a puppy, I'll break his spirit in about a half dozen.

"See, I've got more than the Von Erchs to contend with," Flair explained. "There are a lot of men standing in line to challenge me for the belt. Do you think I should give Kerry Von Erch rematch number 87 before I give a title match to Dusty Rhodes? Or Magnum T.A.? Or Wahoo McDaniel? Or Nikita Koloff? Or Billy Jack Haynes? Or Bobby Jagers or Bob Armstrong or Tommy Rich? Hell no!

"And there's only one way to get the Von Erchs off my back, and that's to carry my offense one step further," Flair said ominously. "I'm going to have to start doing more than wrestling to win; I'm going to have to wrestle to hurt. And when I do that, people get injured. Sometimes they don't come back into the ring for months.

"And that's why I'm starting this petition. Because I know how much the Von Erchs pander to the fans, and I know how much the fans would hate to see their precious little Von Erchs' faces dirtied. So this is their last chance. If enough fans add their names to my petition, maybe I won't have to go so hard on those pretty boys.

"But if they don't ..."

[Editor's note: If you would like to add your name to Ric Flair's petition, send your letter to "Flair's Petition" c/o The Wrestler, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. All letters will be forwarded to World Class officials.] □

REUNION!



IT WAS FOUR O'CLOCK and the city was a blanket of morning dew. In her center, where for two weeks had once lived thousands of Olympians, the wind's howl funneled up the side of the hotel, treading white noise in its wake, that nudged from their various slumbers—instead of weightlifters and discus throwers—hundreds of businessmen, tourists, and others who had reason to spend that night in Montreal. As the wind raced toward the terraced penthouse, it stopped dead, as if shot, and an unusual calm embraced the hotel's top floors.

Pacing briskly over the purple-

THE RETURN OF THE GARVIN BROTHERS!



About a decade ago, the Garvin brothers were a major force in wrestling. Top: Ronnie and Terry Garvin flank Jim, who at the time was his older brothers' manager. Above: Jim and Ronnie, recently teamed in Montreal. Terry wasn't around, but Precious was.

blue carpet on the hotel's top floor was Jimmy Garvin. He had not slept this night, nor was he about to. Seated in a deep velvety recliner, with his legs comfortably propped on the dining room table relaxed Jimmy's brother Ronnie. He was trying desperately to fall asleep, only to have Jimmy swoop down on him like a hawk whenever his eyes threatened to close.

"Goddammit Jim, willya let me get to sleep for chrissakes," Ronnie, clearly exhausted, half-begged and half-demanded of his younger brother. We gotta wrestle in nearly 12 hours. You haven't let me sleep for two days."

"Hey man, don't pin this on me!" Jim Garvin crowed, his arms

Blood ran thickest in Montreal as Ronnie Garvin abandoned his scientific style to come to the aid of his brother, Jim, in the Gorgeous one's feud against Gino Brito Jr. and Dino Bravo

Photos by Paul Heyman & Gene Gordon

windmilling for emphasis. "This ain't my fault! I don't see you for two years, we talk to each other maybe twice, and then all of a sudden you come blowin' into town yapping about how you gonna help me out against Bravo and Brito. What's the deal, man?"

"I'm your brother, aren't I? If I want to help you out, then it's my right to help you out. Blood is thicker than water, right?"

"Not as thick as the water you got on your brain, Ronnie. The last time we talked, you hung up on me. You said that anyone who wrestles like me and hangs around with a broad like Precious is not fit to be called your brother. Do you remember that conversation, my loving, loyal, and adoring sibling?"

Ronnie Garvin stirred. He swung his feet off of the table and rose up out of his chair. He moved quickly over to the big picture window, with the view of the downtown area, and grabbed Jim Garvin by the lapels of his silk shirt. "Look, little fella," he growled, no longer Ronnie Garvin, having turned into The Hands of Stone. "I am your older brother. I love you. We are part of a family. What I did in the past I did for a reason. What I do now I do for a



Ronnie Garvin dares Dino Bravo to come into the ring as he locks up Gino Brito Jr. Ronnie was booed for the first time in many years.



Above: Jim Garvin has a tough time controlling Brito Jr. for a double-team effort. Below: Brito Jr. keeps tabs on Ronnie as he applies a headlock on Jim.



reason. Maybe my fist can help you understand that. It always used to work when we were kids."

Jim Garvin looked at his brother's celebrated fist and suddenly his memory was refreshed. Jim Garvin would fight Rick Martel for the AWA championship in a heartbeat, but putting up the dukes against his older brother on the 39th floor at five in the morning was certainly out of the question. A thin smile creased his lips. "Ronnie, baby," Jim said extending his hand in a parody of friendship, "glad to have you aboard."

Later that night at the arena, the

reunited Garvins didn't show much brotherly love toward Gino Brito Jr. and Dino Bravo as they assaulted the Canadian fan favorites with a fast-paced aggressive attack. Ronnie returned the boos of the partisan crowd with an extremely vicious beating of Brito Jr., while Jimmy and Precious kept Bravo occupied.

Afterward, as they posed for pictures in the dressing room, Ronnie Garvin told reporters why he is risking his favorable reputation by helping his brother.

"As you all know, I lost my National title in a loser-leave-town match to Black Bart and it really

had me down for a while. Then I just said the hell with it. I lost one thing—which is all my title was when you get right down to it—a thing, a belt, an accessory—and I tried to regain something that really is important."

Ronnie Garvin put an arm around his brother and Precious. "Last year I was so disgusted with these two that I hung up on Jimmy and refused to see them. I was selfish. I felt that because Jimmy broke the rules, because he was so flamboyant, and because he kept company with this young lady"—he nodded toward Precious; she blushed and looked down at the ground—"that I couldn't lower myself to associate with him. My own brother and I couldn't associate with him. I had the fans to think about.

"My fans are still important to me, but losing the belt taught me how fleeting some things are in life. Fame, adoration, money—these things come and go. But your family, hey, you're stuck with them forever, so you might as well make the best of it.

"When I learned that Jimmy was up here and having a little trouble with Brito and Bravo, I called him and told him I'd be on the next flight up here." He winked at his brother. "Jimmy had a little trouble believing that my intentions were pure, but we straightened that out last night. Didn't we little brother?"

"Oh yeah," chimed Jimmy, "oh yeah. We got everything pretty as a picture. Pretty as a Rembrandt. With my brother here by my side, we will shortly and in no time at all dominate Canadian wrestling. Then we will go south and pay back all of those men who mistreated me in the United States. The Garvins are back, friends, and as the saying goes, we are better than ever! Ain't that right big brother?"

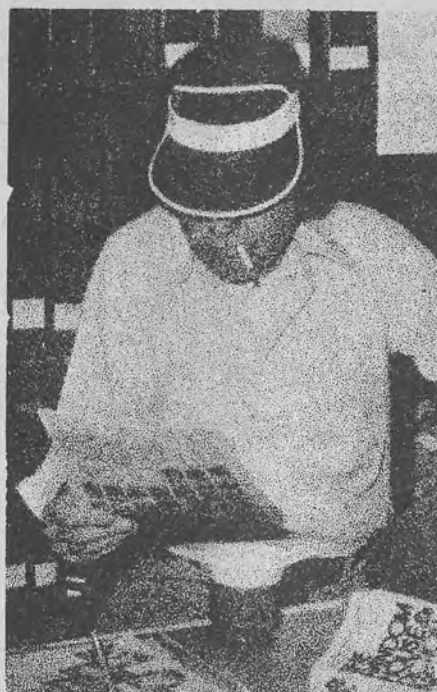
Ronnie Garvin's smile reeked with satisfaction. "Whatever you say Jimmy. Whatever you say." □



Above: Flashback—April, 1974: Bobo Brazil chases Jim Garvin up the turnbuckles as a dog would chase a cat up a tree. Meanwhile, Ronnie Garvin tangles with Earl Maynard. Below: Back in Montreal, popular Dino Bravo switches headlocks from Ronnie to Jim.



MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

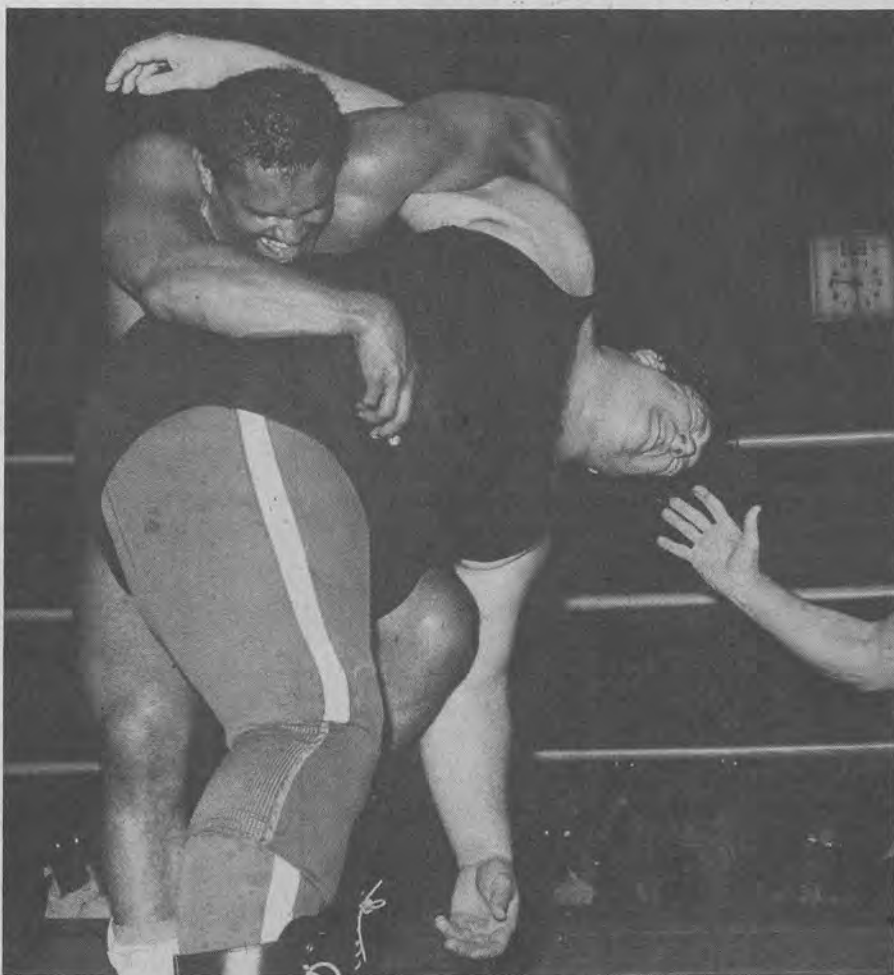
JULY 1973 GORILLA MONSOON vs. VICTOR RIVERA

I CAN HARDLY count the number of times I sat up in the cheap seats at the old Madison Square Garden and watched matches featuring a couple of guys by the names of Victor Rivera and Gorilla Monsoon.

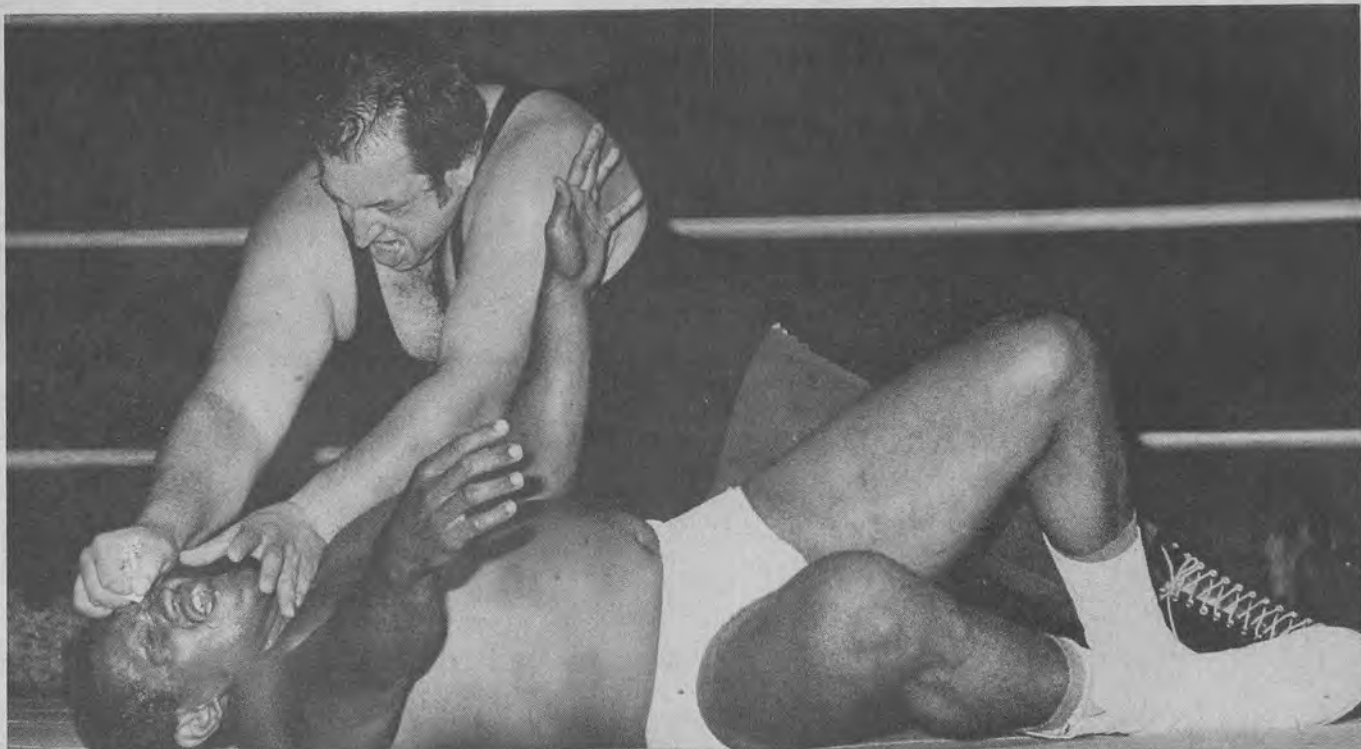
I remember Rivera's feud with Fred Blassie, which led to some of the bloodiest matches I've ever seen. I remember Monsoon's title matches with Bruno Sammartino. I remember when Monsoon, a close friend of Pedro Morales', ran into the ring to save him from a two-on-one attack at the hands of Fred Blassie and Lou Albano.

And I remember a day an even dozen years ago when I traveled 3,000 miles to California, the land of milk and honey (maybe not in reality, but that's what so many teenage starlets-in-waiting felt it to be), to see what remains in my mind one of more unusual confrontations of the entire decade of the '70s.

Gorilla Monsoon and Victor Rivera were close friends, but they were both intrigued about the possi-



Victor Rivera's favorite maneuver is the abdominal stretch. Most experts thought there was no way he'd be able to apply it around the 400-pound frame of Gorilla Monsoon.



The match that was supposed to be a scientific encounter between friends deteriorated into an ugly brawl. Monsoon rubs a paper cup into Rivera's eyes (above). Victor turns the Gorilla's head with a right uppercut (below).



bility of wrestling each other. Even back then, however, the WWF was reluctant to match fan favorites against each other, and the match was not made. After Victor Rivera left the WWF and had established himself in Los Angeles, he called Monsoon and told him that the NWA would gladly sanction a match between the two. It would be a match to remember because it didn't turn out to be the scientific

encounter that both men had anticipated.

About 10 minutes into the match, a fan threw a crumpled beer cup into the ring, aiming his misguided projectile at Monsoon's head. The cup fell short of its target, and in fact had the opposite effect that the fan intended: Monsoon grabbed the cup and used it to gouge away at Rivera's left eye. The way Monsoon was wrestling brought me back to

the days when the 400-pounder warred with Bruno Sammartino and was generally regarded as the most sadistic man in the sport.

Yes, Monsoon was certainly capable of becoming unhinged—and when that large a man comes unhinged, the resulting impact is an awesome sight to behold.

But kudos as well to Rivera, who was eminently capable of keeping the hefty Monsoon under control. Which brings to mind the second great memory of this match: Rivera capturing Monsoon in the abdominal stretch! The only comparable event I can come up with was when Carlos Colon captured Abdullah the Butcher in the figure-four at Starrcade '83 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Part of the defense of these big men is that they're so big you just can't put them in any kind of a hold. But Rivera rose to the occasion, and admirably so.

And that's the bottom line about professional wrestling: rising to the occasion in an even matchup of superstar athletes. When it happens (and it seems to be happening less and less these days), it's a thing of beauty to behold.

Such was the case back in 1973. □

OFF WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.



Kevin Von Erich

TOP10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 7—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 8—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 9—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 10—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 475 pounds
- 4—**TED DIBLASE & STEVE WILLIAMS**
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 535 pounds
- 5—**CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ**
World Class tag team champions
Combined weight: 484 pounds
- 6—**OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 525 pounds
- 7—**MICHAEL HAYES & TERRY GORDY**
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 544 pounds
- 8—**WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES**
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 505 pounds
- 9—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF & IRON SHEIK**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 607 pounds
- 10—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 472 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**BLACK BART**
301, Houston, TX
- 4—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
- 8—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 9—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 10—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL

236, Quebec City, Quebec

- 1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 2—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 3—**LARRY ZBYSKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 4—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 5—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 6—**BUCK ZUMHOFF**
222, Hamburg, MN
- 7—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 8—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**RAY STEVENS**
243, San Francisco, CA
- 10—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HA
- 3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 5—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 6—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 7—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
- 8—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC
- 9—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 10—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
268, parts unknown

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 2—**BLACK BART**
301, Houston, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 8—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 9—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA

CIAL G RATINGS

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
- 2—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 3—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 4—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
- 5—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 6—**KILLER BROOKS**
235, Lancaster, TX
- 7—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
- 8—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 9—**KABUKI**
252, Singapore
- 10—**MIKE VON ERICH**
220, Denton, TX

MID-SOUTH

- 1—**THE NIGHTMARE**
285, parts unknown
- 2—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 3—**THE SNOWMAN**
250, Memphis, TN
- 4—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
- 5—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 6—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 7—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
295, Tulsa, OK
- 8—**BILL WATTS**
263, Oklahoma City, OK
- 9—**DUTCH MANTEL**
242, Oil Trough, TX
- 10—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL

FLORIDA

- 1—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—**JACK HART**
230, St. Petersburg, FL
- 3—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
- 4—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 5—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
- 6—**BUGSY McGRAW**
268, New York, NY
- 7—**SCOTT McGHEE**
220, Shipley, England
- 8—**MIKE GRAHAM**
229, Tampa, FL
- 9—**RIP ROGERS**
238, Atlanta, GA
- 10—**KENDELL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BOTA**
270, Maori Islands
- 3—**PHIL HICKERSON**
238, Jackson, TN
- 4—**JERRY OSKE**
243, Hartford, CT
- 5—**LORD JONATHAN BOYD**
255, Auckland, New Zealand
- 6—**BRUISER BRODY**
300, Albuquerque, NM
- 7—**TOJO YAMAMOTO**
230, Tokyo, Japan
- 8—**RIP MORGAN**
260, Auckland, New Zealand
- 9—**BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX
- 10—**BIG JOHN HARRIS**
525, South Africa

MISSOURI

- 1—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 2—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO
- 3—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 4—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 5—**MR. POGO**
255, Tokyo, Japan
- 6—**BOB BACKLUND**
242, Princeton, MN
- 7—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
232, St. Louis, MO
- 8—**BUTCH REED**
265, Kansas City, MO
- 9—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 10—**BULLDOG BOB BROWN**
258, Winnipeg, Manitoba

NORTHWEST

- 1—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN
- 2—**RICKY VAUGHAN**
245, Tampa, FL
- 3—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
265, Dunlap, KS
- 4—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**
245, Hollywood, CA
- 5—**MEGA MAHARISHI**
260, Portland, OR
- 6—**STEVE SIMPSON**
220, Africa
- 7—**JERRY GREY**
233, Tampa, FL
- 8—**BILLY TWO EAGLES**
223, San Antonio, TX
- 9—**STEVE PARDEE**
232, San Mateo, CA
- 10—**TIMOTHY FLOWERS**
245, New York, NY

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 8—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 9—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 10—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

MOST HATED

- 1—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
- 4—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
276, Moscow, Russia
- 6—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 8—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 9—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Russian plans for supremacy destroyed: When Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, also known as **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**, captured the NWA World tag team title from the Russian triumvirate of **Ivan Koloff**, **Nikita Khrushchev**, and **Krusher Khrushchev**, the Russians' plans for NWA domination were virtually obliterated. And while Nikita still



Nikita Koloff

hopes to unseat NWA World champion **Ric Flair**, it appears as if the Rock 'n' Rolls have already firmly established themselves on the NWA World tag team scene. As a result, the Russians have dropped completely out of the tag team ratings in this issue, and are not even rated among the top 15 tag teams in this month's edition of *Inside Wrestling*.

"This tag team rating is one more example of American conspiracy to keep Koloffs and Khrushchev from claiming rightful supremacy in wrestling world," Ivan Koloff reacted. "Morton and Gibson beat us by fluke, and we are not going to stand for this long. We will take care of so-called Rock 'n' Rolls, and we will regain the belts very soon. It is outrage that we are not even rated as number one contenders to their title!"

And speaking of the number one contenders ...: **Dennis Condrey** and **Bobby Eaton—The Midnight Express**—were ranked in the number 13 spot last month, and were slated as the number two contenders to the National tag team title (though *The Wrestler* only publishes the top 10 tag teams each month, *Inside Wrestling's* top 15 listing is compiled at the same time).

This month, though, Condrey and Eaton have jumped three notches to number 10, and are rated as contenders to the NWA World tag team title rather than the National tag team title.

"As soon as The Rock 'n' Roll Express cashed in on their luck for this decade," said The Midnight Express' manager **Jim Cornette**, "we immediately switched the nature of our campaign in the World Championship area. Morton and Gibson are like a couple of plums, just ripe for the picking. I can guarantee that with Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby in the World Championship area, the Rock 'n' Rolls' title reign will be a very short one."

No relation to Gary Hart ... or Jimmy Hart ... or Brett Hart ...: **Jack Hart**, the man who distinguished himself in Florida by running his win-loss record to a not-so-distinguished 0-131 before clocking his first victory, has added a very significant victory to his record. On July 23, 1985, Jack made it to the final round of a tournament in Tampa, Florida, to determine a new Florida champion. In that final round, Jack wrestled **Mike Graham**—and won the title.

"I have to give a lot of the credit to my manager, **Percy Pringle**,"

Hart said. "He's taught me a lot. Hey—I may not have a lot of wins to my credit, but I'm making them all count! This win over Graham marks a new start in my career. Forget about that 0-131 crap. Months from now, my record will be 131-0—and they'll all be successful title defenses!"

As a result of his title victory, Jack Hart is now ranked in the traditional spot for the Florida champion: number two in Florida. That places him right behind Southern champion **Rick Rude**.

"Hell," Hart added, "I may even have Pringle petition for a title match with Flair!"

Down memory lane: From time to time, "Ratings Analysis" will take a look back (but not too far back) in the history of wrestling and examine some of the developments in professional wrestling as



Junkyard Dog

reflected by our ratings system. This time, we look back two years to the ratings as published in the November 1983 edition of *The Wrestler*.

The Road Warriors were ranked number six in the tag team ratings ... **Hulk Hogan** wasn't rated anywhere at all! ... **Junkyard Dog** was North American champion, and was rated number one in the Mid-South ... **Rick Martel** was ranked number one in the AWA, just a step away from the title he holds today ... **Roddy Piper** was number five in the Most Popular category! ... The Pacific Northwest boasted some fine talent, including **Curt Hennig**, **Rip Oliver**, **Playboy Buddy Rose**, **Brian Adisas**, and **Billy Jack**.

Odds and ends: Missouri State heavyweight champion **Jerry Blackwell** drops from number two to number 10 in the NWA this month, mainly due to his glaring lack of title defenses ... **Terry Taylor** may have dropped out of the top 10 in the NWA, but he's working to reestablish himself in that category; Taylor enters the World Championship ratings this month in the number five spot, and if his success there is anything like his success in the Mid-South and Mid-Southern areas, Terry should be challenging **Ric Flair** and riding high atop the NWA ratings again very soon ... **Buck Zumhofe** has returned to the AWA, cracking into those ratings in the number six position ... This issue marks the 12th consecutive month that **The Road Warriors** have been ranked as the number one tag team in the world—remarkable!

The address for mail: We welcome your comments, criticisms and questions about our ratings system. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

UNFAIR TO JAGGERS

I'd like to comment on the "X-Ray" of Bobby Jagers in the August 1985 issue of *The Wrestler*.

Bruno Sammartino and Verne Gagne should look at the facts before they judge too harshly.

Sammartino said Bobby hasn't traveled the country and has "spent most of his career in the Pacific Northwest." Bobby lived his first 18 years in the Northwest. He went to Texas to become a professional wrestler. He's only been in the Northwest for six months. How can Sam-



Bobby Jagers received a lot of unjust criticism when he was "X-Rayed" in the August 1985 issue, according to Kris Diehl. Kris says that Bruno Sammartino and Verne Gagne did not have their facts straight.

martino say Bobby has spent most of his career there?

Gagne pointed out that Bobby shouldn't have lost the Northwest title to Steiner. No one should lose a title. Gagne didn't see how Bobby lost the belt. I did. Steiner's partner and

(Continued on page 50)

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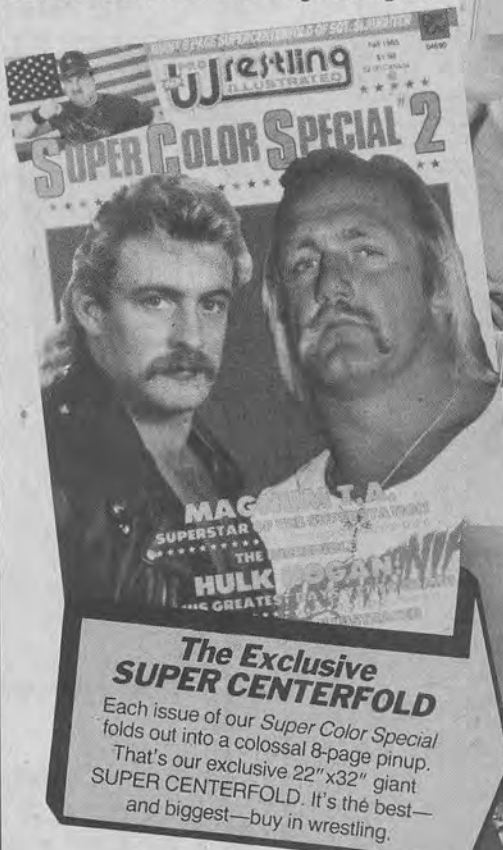
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SUPER CENTERFOLD: Sgt. Slaughter



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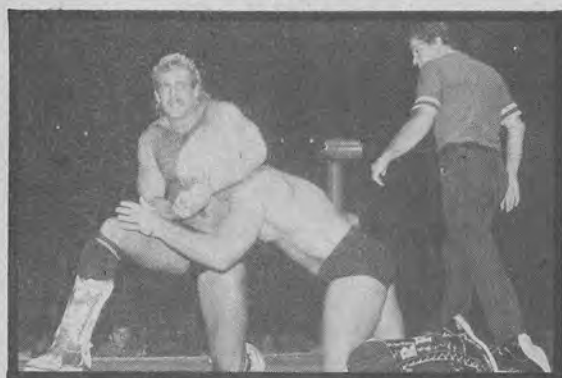
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THE GREAT KABUKI faces off against **CHRIS ADAMS** in a match that's not just for kicks!



Read about **MAGNUM T.A.'s** post-**RIC FLAIR** despair as the former U.S. champion struggles in the wake of failure

PLUS . . .

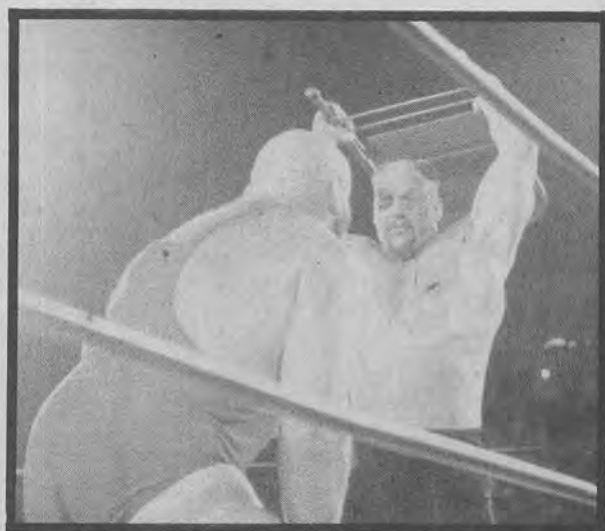
RICK STEAMBOAT vs. **TITO SANTANA**—Make this match now! . . . An exclusive "Hotseat" interview with **JIM CORNETTE** . . . **THE FREEBIRDS** are flyin' high, and they want **THE ROAD WARRIORS** . . . **JAKE ROBERTS** and **TED DIBLASE** face off "One On One" . . . **BILLY JACK HAYNES** is profiled

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 47)

friend, Mike Miller, tripped Bobby with his crutch. Sandy Barr, the referee, didn't see it. Bobby did regain the title, and as long as he wants to he can wear that belt.

These people should look at the facts before they publish their opinions.

KRIS DIEHL
Hogiam, WA

WONDER-MANIA

An open letter to Roddy Piper:

Following WrestleMania, you've been criticizing Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff. You keep mouthing off that Orndorff lost the match for you against Hulk Hogan and Mr. T. You have also said that he lost his courage, and now you're calling him "Mr. Blunderful."

Well, Piper, I think you should quit while you're ahead. We both know it wasn't "Mr. Wonderful's" fault. It really was that bodyguard of yours, Ace, Cowboy Bob Orton.



Paul Orndorff and Roddy Piper eye each other menacingly during the "Piper's Pit" that officially ended their friendship. Reader John Martello believes Piper has made a serious error by making "Mr. Wonderful" his enemy.

Second of all, you say that Orndorff stinks at wrestling. You should talk! The only way you can win is to cheat! Piper, if you think you're so great, why don't you stand up like a man and fight "Mr. Wonderful"?

JOHN MARTELLO
Pittsburgh

FLAIR IS THE BEST

Hey, to all the people out there who think Ric Flair cheats, you all better think again. Flair is the best of all time. He has defended his title many times against the strongest opponents, and he's still got his title today. And he's going to have it for a long time to come. He's cheated before, sure, but can you name one wrestler who hasn't?



Ric Flair is the finest wrestler to have ever held the NWA World title belt, writes Lori Anne Raynon. A man of many possessions, Flair cherishes the belt above all.

Ric Flair goes up against *anybody* who signs on the dotted line. You've got to face it sooner or later: Ric Flair is the best of all time. He has walked from one side of the earth to the other side with his head held high. People respect him for what he has done since first winning the title, and even before that.

Think long and hard about it, and you'll realize that Ric Flair has made his mark in pro wrestling. He is truly the greatest of all time.

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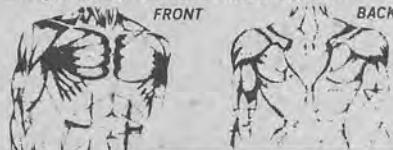
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Q & A

(Continued from page 24)

on. I respected the title because I knew how hard it was for me to win it and how quickly I could lose it. Flair treats it with contempt. He never fears losing the title, because he has no pride. He'll disqualify himself whenever he is in danger of being pinned. That's something no one in my era would have done. Flair has the talent to be one of the greatest champions of all time, yet he seems to be a rather poor caretaker of his talent. Choosing the easy way does not a great champion make.

Q: Are you bitter about the widespread appeal that some of these "brawlers" have enjoyed lately now that a lot of them have affiliated themselves with rock 'n' roll?

A: I'm not a bitter man. I enjoyed tremendous success all over the world. And I make more money now from my business interests than I did in the ring, so I'm not bitter over the millions of dollars that wrestlers with half my skill make. Disappointed is a better word. Wrestling was a proud sport in my day. It still is, but it's tarnished. As long as men like Brody and Carlos Colon and Antonio Inoki are around, wrestling will survive. The Rock 'n' Wrestling connection will blow away. Things like that always do.

Q: I must ask this question: In your prime, do you think you could have wrestled and defeated a wrestler like Hogan or one of The Road Warriors?

A: I think everyone's first reaction would be to say, are you kidding? Thesz would be crushed by any one of those guys. I've got news for you. I'd stack half a dozen wrestlers from my era against Hogan. We had savvy. We knew the ring and we made every ounce of skill work for us. And we were tough. Growing up during the Depression made you tough. What we lacked in weight we made up for in



Immobilizing Danny Hodge with his right arm (carefully making sure it does not come in contact with the throat), Thesz applies a hammerlock. Lou believes that many of today's wrestlers are only concerned with gimmickry and lack a knowledge of the sport's basics.

a dozen other ways.

Q: Are there any positive things to happen to wrestling in the past 20 years?

A: Of course! Of course there are. I don't want to come off as one of those old guys who think that everything new is terrible. The wrestlers' personalities have added a lot to the sport. As long as they leave the talk behind when they get into the ring and show they can wrestle, I don't think any harm can come out of having a little bit of charisma. Plus, there are more daring moves than there were in my day. Some of these guys fly around the ring like they have wings. Wrestling today is still the most exciting sport in the world. □

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

He knew he couldn't afford to lose one, much less six or seven, so he hightailed it. I guess he feel it's better to lose a little dignity than to lose \$30,000."

Tournaments were established to determine new Southern and Florida champions. Those tournaments saw **Rick Rude** capture the Southern belt, while **Jack Hart** won the Florida title with a little help from his manager, **Percy Pringle**. It's interesting to note that in both tournaments, **Mike Graham** was the man who made it to the final round and (sorry, Mike) eventually lost.

When North American heavyweight champion **The Nightmare** (who prefers to be called **The Champion**) signed with **Sir Oliver Humperdink**, it was a black day for **The Nightmare's** former manager, **Eddie Gilbert**. "I don't recall ever signing any paper between me and Gilbert," **Nightmare** told *The Wrestler*. "I looked at all the options. **Humperdink** offered me a good deal if I would sign with him, so I did. Hey—**Gilbert** can stay on as my adviser. I'm not against that." **Gilbert**, though, has different ideas: "**Humperdink** told **Nightmare** that I ruined his career. That's hogwash! I made **The Nightmare** the sensation and the star that he is today. He owes everything to me. I made him, and I can break him. And I will!"

Magnificent Muraco continues to challenge **Tito Santana** for the WWF Intercontinental title. If **Muraco** is successful in his campaign, he'll become the only three-time holder of that championship . . . **Iceman Parsons** has captured the World Class TV title from **Killer Brooks** . . . In other TV title news, **Butch Reed** downed **Dutch Mantel** for the Mid-South television championship.

Until recently, the Pacific Wres-

ting Federation tag team championship had been held by a combination that has terrorized Japanese rings for years: **Bruiser Brody** and **Stan Hansen**. Recently, however, **Brody** turned his back on **Hansen**, leaving the big man from **Borger, Texas**, to stand alone against Japan's top teams. **Hansen** had teamed with several partners to defend the belts (**Jerry Blackwell**, for one, and an unidentified masked man in another instance), but PWF officials claim that the title defenses are invalid. A tournament will be held August 31 to determine new champions, and it is expected that some of the world's top teams will flock to Ja-



Magnificent Muraco hopes to defeat **Tito Santana** and become the first ever three-time Intercontinental champion.

pan for the event. **Precious Paul Ellering**, manager of the AWA World tag team champions **The Road Warriors**, is currently negotiating to bring **Hawk** and **Animal** to Japan for the tournament.

Wahoo McDaniel and **Billy Jack Haynes** are the new U.S. tag team champions, having defeated **Rick Rude** and **Jesse Barr** ... **Greg "The Hammer" Valentine** was so angered by his Intercontinental title loss to **Tho Santana** in Baltimore that he ripped the belt to shreds; a new belt should be ready, however, by the time you read this ...



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And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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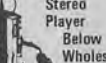
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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

he followed with a flying elbow-smash. Valiant quickly tagged off to a less than enthusiastic Beefcake, and Santana tagged off to Atlas. The former Mr. U.S.A. began laughing out loud at Beefcake's outfit. Beefcake surprised Atlas and knocked him down with a shoulderblock. Atlas retaliated with a shoulderblock of his own that sent Beefcake to the mat so quickly that Brutus just rolled over to his corner and tagged back to Valiant.

Santana greeted Valiant with a flying bodypress and attempted a pin, but Beefcake came in and knocked Santana off. Santana and Atlas then tried to whip Beefcake and Valiant into each other, but Beefcake reversed Atlas and sent the muscleman hurtling into Valiant. Valiant went down hard and Santana laid on him for the pin.

In other matches: Jim Brunzell defeated Mr. X... Randy Savage destroyed Jose Luis Rivera... Leaping Lanny Poffo beat Rene Goulet.

Houston (Correspondent—Annette Passmore): The war between Kamala and Hacksaw Duggan continued in Houston.

Duggan is still hot in pursuit of Kamala's manager, Gen. Skandor Akbar, because Akbar had thrown a fireball in Duggan's face several months back.

Duggan entered the ring wearing a patch with an American flag over his damaged right eye. Kamala wasted no time in attacking Duggan. He ripped off Hacksaw's eye patch and began hitting it with a whip that Akbar handed him. Duggan's eye began bleeding profusely, and at the sight of his own blood, Hacksaw went berserk. He whipped Kamala across the ring and pummeled him with kicks and punches. Akbar then threw a powdery substance into Duggan's face, blinding him, and allowing Kamala to beat on him at will.

The referee disqualified Kamala and Akbar, but the decision didn't satisfy Duggan's bloodlust. He kept hitting Kamala until several wrestlers came in and cleared the ring. The two have signed a special no-disqualification match, and if Duggan wins, he will have five minutes alone in the ring with Akbar.

In other bouts: Brickhouse Brown drew with Wendell Cooley... Eddie Gilbert beat Frankie



Kamala chews on Jim Duggan's forehead, trying to force his way to the Hacksaw's eyes. Kamala seems to be under orders by Gen. Skandor Akbar to blind Duggan.

Lane ... The Nightmare defeated Brad Armstrong ... The Barbarian beat Terry Taylor ... The Snowman beat Jake Roberts ... Hector and Chavo Guerrero defeated Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams.

Hampton, VA (Correspondent—Anthony Pierce): Two of wrestling's strong men battled when "The Ragin' Bull" Manny Fernandez met Superstar Graham. Fernandez dominated the first five minutes of the match, beating Graham at his own game with an assortment of karate chops, kicks, and bodyslams. Graham retaliated with an illegal grab bag of moves,



Manny Fernandez took advantage of a mental lapse by Superstar Graham to win his match in Hampton, Virginia.

including an eye gouge that drew blood from Fernandez's right eye. Superstar continued his sadistic onslaught and went for the pin. Graham jumped in victory, not realizing that the referee had only counted to two. Fernandez snuck up behind the celebrating Graham and rolled him up for the pin.

In other bouts: Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. beat Tully Blanchard and Abdullah the Butcher ... Ivan Koloff beat The Starship Eagle ... Buddy Landell defeated Stoney Burke ... Krusher Khrushchev beat Sam Houston ... Kendo Nagasaki defeated Hardrock Ricky Reeves. ☐

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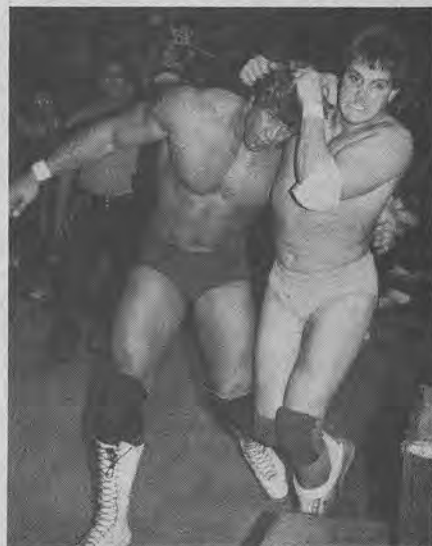
YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

this vile and disgusting team.”—
Ben Couglin, Concord, MA

A: Paul Ellering responds: “Fear not, Benjamin, The Road Warriors will prevail and preserve the honor of this great nation. The Koloffs have the audacity to rank themselves alongside the Legion of Doom and for such an affront they must be horsewhipped. Hawk and Animal will respond to the challenge in a way so brutal that only the strongest of stomach will be able to watch. We will force the Koloffs to regurgitate their communist swill.”

Q: “My question is for Chris Adams: Everyone is always asking you when you are going to renounce your evil ways and reconcile with



Chris Adams runs Kerry Von Erich's head into the ring steps. Adams does not foresee a reconciliation with the Von Erichs.

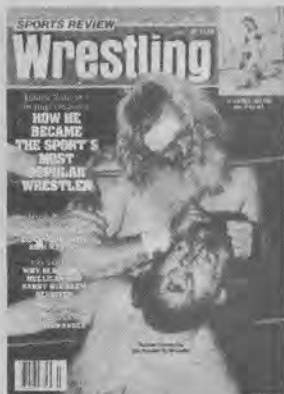
the Von Erichs. My question is, would you take Kerry and Kevin Erich back if they decided to join your crusade with Gino Hernandez to dominate wrestling and get rid of Sunshine?”—Kimberly Taylor, Lawrence, MA

A: Chris Adams' answer was, “That's a good laugh, a bloody good laugh. Kerry and Kevin joining Gino and me? Oh, that's a good one. First of all, Kerry and Kevin would be disowned and tossed out of the house.

(Continued on page 60)

Wrestling

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NOVEMBER 1983

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 58)



Sgt. Slaughter has no interest in renewing his feud with Bob Backlund. Though the two engaged in a series of brutal battles in the early 1980s while Backlund held the WWF title, they have become very close friends.

Their daddy would yell at them, which they wouldn't be able to stand. And little Mike would probably start to cry. I know I'm speaking for Gino when I say that we would never take those two cowardly sheep into our fold. They would turn on us the first chance they got. Plus, they're both so in love with that hag, Sunshine, that they can't even recognize her for the low-lying rat that she is. No thanks. We're doing fine without any help from Kerry and Kevin Von Erich."

Q: "My question is for Sgt. Slaughter: Now that you are in the same territory as Bob Backlund, is there any residual animosity left over from when you two feuded in the WWF?"—Steven Komito, Fair Lawn, NJ

A: Sgt. Slaughter fired back this reply: "People change over the years. When I was fighting Bobby back in those days, my desire to be champion overwhelmed any sense of decency and fairplay that I had. I've changed. With the help of my fans

and my country, my priorities have straightened out. On my part, there is nothing but respect for a man of Bob Backlund's honor and integrity. I would hope that he could let the past be buried and respect me, too."

Q: "My question is for The American Starship, Eagle and Coyote: I watch you wrestle in the Mid-Atlantic area with great interest. When Eagle teamed with Buzz Tyler and Brett Sawyer against the Koloffs and Khrushchev, the match was outstanding. Have you ever thought of being trained by the big guys like Magnum T.A. and Dusty Rhodes? Look what they're doing for Sam Houston. In just one month of training, I can see a tremendous improvement in his style. Have you ever thought of getting a manager?"—Billy Cole, Freehold, NJ

A: Eagle's answer was: "We've considered management but have not of yet found anyone suitable to our needs. But thanks for the suggestion."

□

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The Wrestler's 12 Best: Bob Backlund; Nick Bockwinkel; Jack Brisco; Ric Flair; Verne Gagne; Hulk Hogan; Don Leo Jonathan; Mil Mascaras; Harley Race; Dusty Rhodes; Bruno Sammartino; The Sheik

THE BALLOT

In this special fan ballot, write in *your* choices for the 10 best wrestlers of the last 20 years.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)



Above: Referee Dick Woherle takes a close look as Mr. Fuji applies a nervehold on Hogan. Fuji's grin tells Woherle that he will find nothing illegal. Opposite page: Once back on his feet, the WWF champion regains command of the match.

around the ring. And, starting with the luckless Mr. Fuji, Hogan has decided to take corrective measures.

"Hogan is just plain pissed off," croaked former chicanery artist Capt. Lou Albano. "You don't have to tell me what a manager can do. I wrote the book. Foreign objects, fake casts, sneak attacks—let me tell you there was no man that I couldn't turn into a champion. You saw what Blassie did at WrestleMania. He handed the tag team title over to the Sheik and Volkoff.

"You gotta admire Blassie, in a sense. Although I could never do something like that anymore, there's a little part of me that can still appreciate a good manager's run-in.

"Hogan is just fed up. He figures that without the WWF managers, this federation would be a lot better off. The matches would be fairer. I gotta agree with him. I'm the damn horse's mouth—I know what these managers can do and will do without one second's hesitation. What Hogan is

doing can only help clean up wrestling."

Albano refused to comment on whether or not Hogan would have been able to squelch a bad Capt. Lou, although the look in his eye indicated that he's glad that's one problem he doesn't have to worry about.

As for Hogan, his campaign against the WWF managers began at a card promoted by the Sands Hotel and Casino and finished with Mr. Fuji's beady black eyes spinning like a roulette ball. Hogan used his entire arsenal to annihilate the manager of his most hated opponent, Magnificent Muraco. The match was never close and ended, mercifully, at the eight-minute mark, when Hogan legdropped Fuji into oblivion.

Hogan will not rest until he does the same to Freddie Blassie,



Johnny Valiant, Jimmy Hart, and Bobby Heenan, four managers whom he has pegged as having the most evil influence in the WWF. Of the four, Jimmy Hart was the first to counter Hogan's threats. "Hulk Hogan is running so scared that I'm afraid he might trip over his tail. Now that Randy Savage and The Missing Link and Terry Funk have joined King Kong Bundy, Magnificent Muraco, and Roddy Piper, Hogan doesn't know where to turn."

"So he goes and fights Mr. Fuji. Wow! Big deal. I could beat Mr. Fuji. But he knows that Fuji is behind Muraco, and he thinks that if he can beat up on an over-the-hill wrestler, it'll somehow affect Muraco. I'm afraid Mr. Hogan's hair has fallen out to reveal a terrifying lack of brains."

"If he wants to use his 300 pounds to beat me up—I weigh about 160—I welcome the challenge. But let him get through King Kong Bundy first."

Albano summed Hogan's position up like this: "A guy like Hart is like one of those female valets. He thinks he can get away with anything in the ring without fear of retaliation because he's smaller than everyone else. Me, I gave my lumps and I took my lumps like a man."

"Hogan doesn't care if Hart weighs 20 pounds. He's going to make a point. The point is you don't interfere when someone is wrestling. The minute you step over the line from adviser to participant, you had better be prepared to pay some heavy consequences." □

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We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straight-forward offer...

Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your

GAIN IS SAFE

GAIN is not a dangerous drug, medicine or a fishy-tasting oil. It is made of safe, pure ingredients, contains nothing which could possibly harm you, and may even be taken with complete safety by children.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Send for the GAIN Plan today. Try it for 7 days entirely at our risk. If, at the end of 7 days, you haven't started to gain pounds and inches and to look better and to feel better... If you aren't convinced the GAIN Plan is a safe, pleasant, way to gain weight, don't keep it! Return the empty bottle and get your money back immediately, no questions asked!

VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt... even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and at least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

MAIL NO-RISK COUPON TODAY

GAIN PRODUCTS, Dept. G30
535 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10017

Please send my package of GAIN Plan immediately with the understanding that if I am not satisfied, I may have my money back, no questions asked.

- ☐ One GAIN PLAN for \$9.98
☐ SAVE \$2.00! Order 2 for \$17.96
☐ SAVE \$5.00! Order 3 for \$25.00

Enclosed is \$

☐ cash, ☐ check or ☐ money order

NAME

please print

ADDRESS

CITY

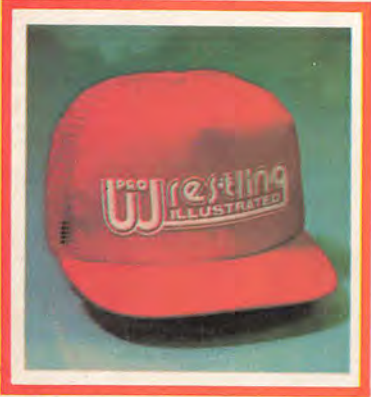
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SHOW THE WORLD YOU'RE A TRUE WRESTLING FAN!



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A FULL LINE OF TOP-QUALITY
MERCHANDISE FROM THE LARGEST-
SELLING, MOST RESPECTED
WRESTLING MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD



THE PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED T-SHIRT

A favorite among wrestling fans for years. These high-quality, silk-screened shirts are a fashion blend of 50% comfortable cotton and 50% long-wearing polyester. The official *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* T-shirt is crimson-red with white lettering and comes in a selection of four sizes: small, medium, large, and extra large. Only \$7.00.

THE PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED CAP

The perfect companion to the *PWI* T-shirt. A bright crimson-red hat emblazoned with a white *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* logo in unique raised lettering for a spectacular three-dimensional look and feel. Be the first fan in your neighborhood to wear one! Top-quality, long-wearing—one size fits all. Only \$7.00.

THE PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED "SKYFLYER"

Get ready for summer fun the whole year-round with the only flying disc to bear the official *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* name. A bright red disc with yellow and white lettering, the *PWI* "Skyflyer" is constructed of sturdy plastic for years of enjoyment. A full 9 1/4 inches in diameter. Only \$5.00.

THE PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED BUMPER STICKER

The *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* logo is reproduced in dynamic red on a bright yellow background. This giant sticker (3 3/4 inches by 15 inches) is specially made of high-quality vinyl for easy application and removal. A guaranteed eye-catcher wherever you place it! Only \$2.00.

THE PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED BUTTON

Wear the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* button proudly on your shirt, jacket, or hat to show the world you love pro wrestling. A sturdy button with safety pin backing, the official *PWI* button is oblong in shape and measures 1 3/4 inches by 2 3/4 inches. Dynamic red logo on bright yellow background. Only \$1.00.

SPECIAL BONUS OFFER: DELUXE SUPERFAN PACKAGE!

ALL FIVE ITEMS! YOU'LL RECEIVE: ONE T-SHIRT, ONE HAT, ONE SKYFLYER, TWO BUMPER STICKERS, AND TWO BUTTONS! THAT'S A \$25.00 VALUE FOR THE SPECIAL LOW PRICE OF ONLY \$19.95 (save over \$5.00!) THE PERFECT BIRTHDAY OR HOLIDAY GIFT FOR ANY WRESTLING FAN!



PWI BUMPER STICKER



PWI BUTTON



DELUXE PACKAGE

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
PWI T-SHIRT (specify size: s,m,l,xl)	\$7.00 ea.		
PWI CAP	\$7.00 ea.		
PWI SKYFLYER	\$5.00 ea.		
PWI BUMPER STICKER	\$2.00 ea.		
PWI BUTTON	\$1.00 ea.		
PWI DELUXE PACKAGE	\$19.95 ea.		
TOTAL AMOUNT			

SHIRT SIZE ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ XLarge

Send To:
TV SPORTS
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571
Make checks payable to TV SPORTS, INC.

MINIMUM ORDER \$2.00

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APT _____

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Minimum order: \$2.00. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. U.S. funds only. Do not send coins. Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign orders please add \$3.00.